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089 HINOMARU ZUMOU

BY KAWADA

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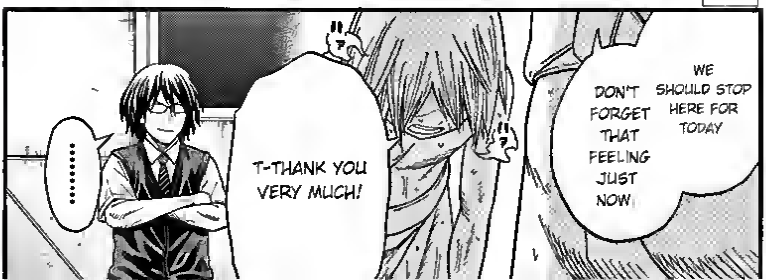
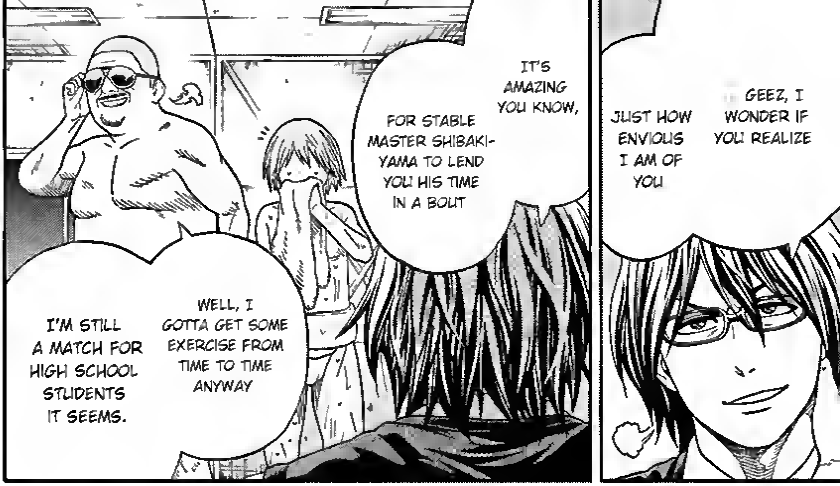
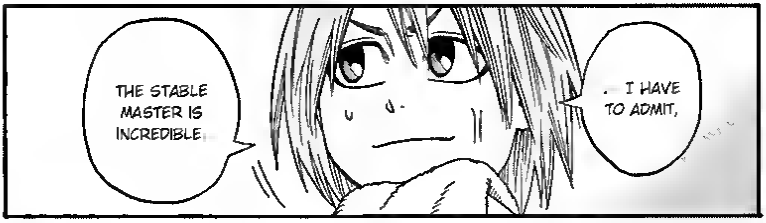
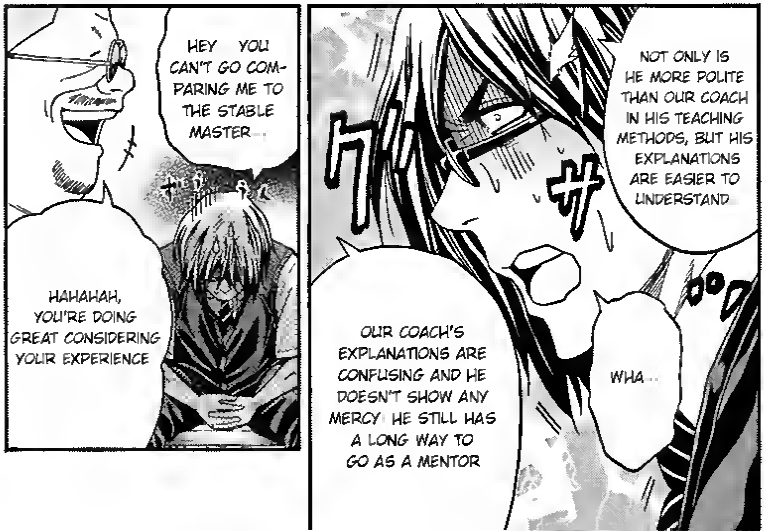
Round 89: **WRESTLER AND COACH**

KAWADA




IT'S AMAZING YOU KNOW,
FOR STABLE MASTER SHIBAKI-YAMA TO LEND YOU HIS TIME IN A BOUT
WELL, I GOTTA GET SOME EXERCISE FROM TIME TO TIME ANYWAY
I'M STILL A MATCH FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IT SEEMS.
... GEEZ, I WONDER IF YOU REALIZE
JUST HOW ENVIOUS I AM OF YOU


THE STABLE MASTER IS INCREDIBLE...
... I HAVE TO ADMIT,

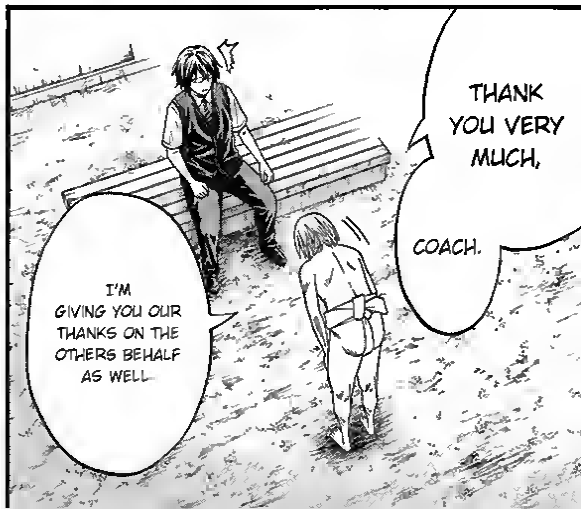

HEY YOU CAN'T GO COMPARING ME TO THE STABLE MASTER...
HAHAHAH, YOU'RE DOING GREAT CONSIDERING YOUR EXPERIENCE
NOT ONLY IS HE MORE POLITE THAN OUR COACH IN HIS TEACHING METHODS, BUT HIS EXPLANATIONS ARE EASIER TO UNDERSTAND...
WHA...
OUR COACH'S EXPLANATIONS ARE CONFUSING AND HE DOESN'T SHOW ANY MERCY. HE STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO AS A MENTOR

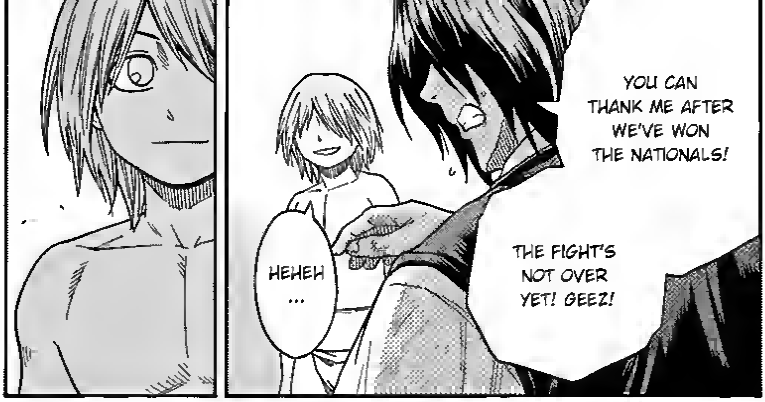
I'M DOING MY BEST HERE TOO CHEW!
I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE HINOMARU WAS OVERWORKING HIMSELF...
ANYWAY, I HAVE TO KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HIM ONCE WE GET BACK HOME SO HE DOESN'T DO OVERDO IT AGAIN... GEEZ.
DAMMIT... I KNOW, I'M STILL INEXPERIENCED
THAT'S WHY I'M GETTING SO MANY PEOPLE TO HELP YOU GUYS OUT.
IT'S TRUE THAT YOU'RE NOT THE MOST RELIABLE AT TIMES, BUT
HAHAH! WHAT ARE YOU SO DEPRESSED FOR?
YOU WERE THE ONE TO GET US INVOLVED WITH THE SHIBAKIYAMA STABLE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
FURTHER-MORE LOOK.
COMPARED TO WHEN I JOINED THE CLUB
BEFORE↓
LOOK, LOOK
DON'T YOU THINK I'M LOOKING A BIT MORE LIKE A WRESTLER NOW?
It's is all thanks to you, coach.

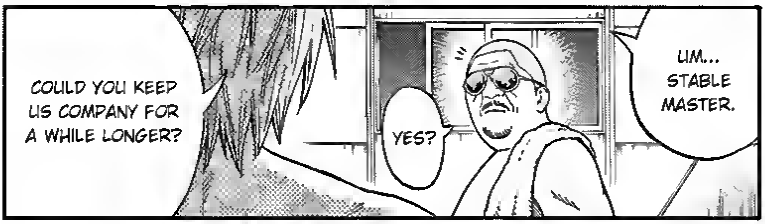
YEH, IF YOU TRAIN FOR MORE THAN TWO MONTHS OF COURSE YOU'LL NOTICE CHANGES.
YOU'RE STILL UNRELIABLE AS A WRETLER, BUT
YOU'RE DOING WELL.
I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE.
WE'RE ALL GRATEFUL TO YOU, COACH

WE WERE WIPED OUT IN THE KANTOU NEWCOMERS TOURNAMENT, BUT THEN YOU APPEARED
AND GUIDED US ONTO CORRECT PATH.
IF YOU WEREN'T AROUND
I DOUBT WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BEAT ISHI HIGH

W-WHERE DID THIS COME FROM!
DON'T BE STUPID!

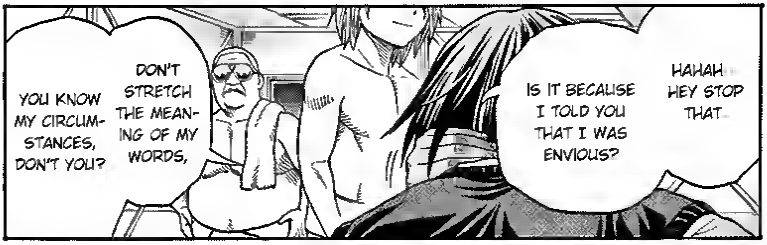

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, COACH.
I'M GIVING YOU OUR THANKS ON THE OTHERS BEHALF AS WELL.


YOU CAN THANK ME AFTER WE'VE WON THE NATIONALS!
THE FIGHT'S NOT OVER YET! GEEZ!
HEHEH ...


UM... STABLE MASTER.
YES?
COULD YOU KEEP US COMPANY FOR A WHILE LONGER?

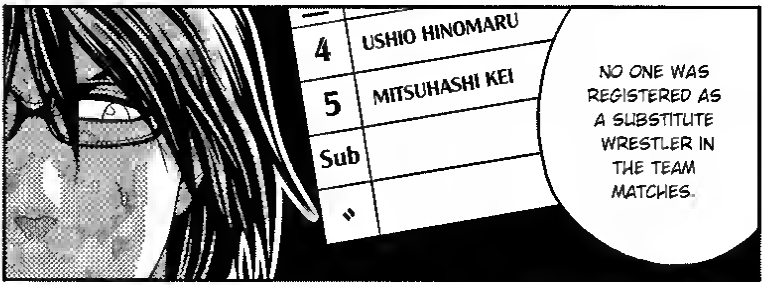
PLEASE TRAIN WITH HIM AS WELL.
AS A WRESTLER, OF COURSE.

.....!?
W-...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
.....


HAHAH... HEY STOP THAT...
IS IT BECAUSE I TOLD YOU THAT I WAS ENVIOUS?
DON'T STRETCH THE MEANING OF MY WORDS,
YOU KNOW MY CIRCUMSTANCES, DON'T YOU?

I'M A WRESTLER WHO'S LUNG CAPACITY CAN'T HANDLE MORE THAN A 20 SECOND FIGHT.
THAT'S WHY I'VE LEFT THE RING,
AND CHOSEN TO FIGHT AS A COACH...

THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN TROUBLING ME FOR A WHILE.
DURING THE INTER HIGH PRE-LIMINARIES...
!?
...OF COURSE I KNOW ABOUT THAT,
BUT
YOU CAN FIGHT FOR 20 SECONDS, RIGHT?


4 USHIO HINOMARU
5 MITSUHASHI KEI
Sub
"
NO ONE WAS REGISTERED AS A SUBSTITUTE WRESTLER IN THE TEAM MATCHES.

RESOLVE TO BEING A COACH.
... THAT'S MY...

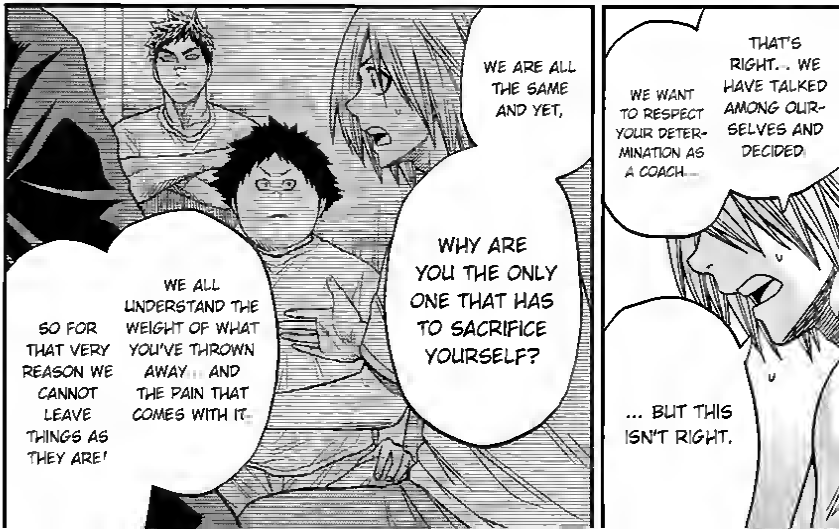
YOU'VE NEVER ONCE HAD A BOUT... WHY IS THAT?
SINCE THAT FIGHT WITH HINOMARU-SAN... EVEN IF YOU LET US USE YOU AS TARGET PRACTICE FROM TIME TO TIME,
.....

I'M THE FIRST TO KNOW THAT I'M STILL LACKING AS A COACH.
AND ABOVE ALL, I'M A WRESTLER WITH LOW PROSPECTS. I CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE MY TIME.
IF I START NELECTING MY JOB BEFORE I'M EVEN A GOOD COACH, I'LL JUST END UP HOLDING YOU ALL BACK!
THAT'S WHY I'VE THROWN AWAY ANY THOUGHT OF BEING AN ATHLETE,
AND IS WHY I'M USING ALL OF MY TIME FOR YOUR SAKES!
THE FACT THAT I DIDN'T REGISTER AS A SUBSTITUTE WRESTLER IS PROOF OF MY DETERMINATION.
I SWORE TO MYSELF THAT I WOULD LEAD YOU GUYS TO VICTORY AS A COACH!
... BUT
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE ABANDONED ALL HOPE OF BEING A WRESTLER, HAVE YOU?
!

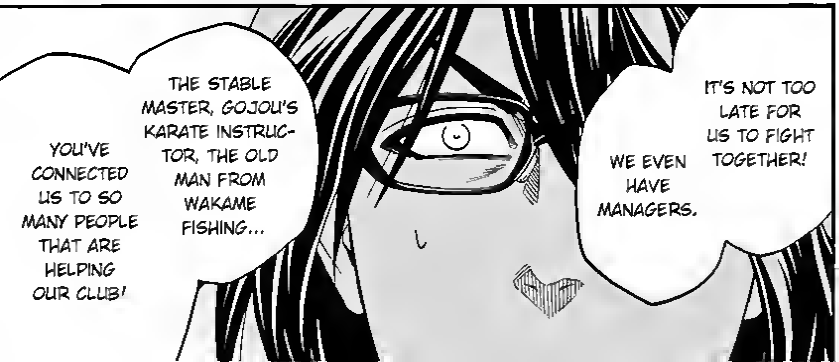
I DON'T DOUBT YOUR DETERMINATION,
BUT...
IS THAT REALLY ALL THERE IS TO IT?
AND THANKS TO THAT I'VE HAD MANY CHANCE TO OBSERVE YOU
YOU'VE BEEN SPENDING A LOT OF TIME WITH ME LATELY,
WHEN YOU WERE WATCHING THE FINALS AGAINST ISHI HIGH... AND THE MATCH BETWEEN HINOMARU-SAN AND THE CAPTAIN
YOUR GAZE...
YOUR CLENCHED FISTS...
WERE THEY REALLY JUST HOW YOU RESPONSED AS A COACH?
.....!!
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GETTING COLD FEET NOW..
ARE YOU ASKING ME TO TAKE YOUR PLACE!?
.....
.....
WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO STEP INTO THE RING...?
WHAT...? WHAT ARE YOU...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NOTHING TO DO WITH US"..!?
"NOTHING TO DO WITH US?"
BUT THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU GUYS..!
I'M SURE YOU KNOW HOW I REALLY FEEL... I WON'T DENY MY LINGERING AFFECTION TOWARDS THE RING...
...BUT THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
OF COURSE I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO HINOMARU'S VICTORY AS A WRESTLER.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO LOVE SUMO, ARE WE NOT?
ALL OF US INCLUDING YOU, COACH, ARE ALL
BEFORE BEING WRESTLERS AND COACHES,


SO FOR THAT VERY REASON WE CANNOT LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE!
WE ALL UNDERSTAND THE WEIGHT OF WHAT YOU'VE THROWN AWAY... AND THE PAIN THAT COMES WITH IT.
WHY ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE THAT HAS TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF?
WE ARE ALL THE SAME AND YET,
WE WANT TO RESPECT YOUR DETERMINATION AS A COACH...
THAT'S RIGHT... WE HAVE TALKED AMONG OURSELVES AND DECIDED
... BUT THIS ISN'T RIGHT.

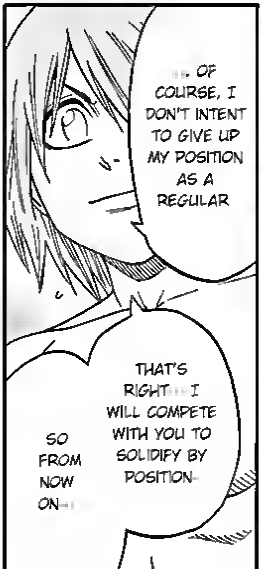
DON'T TRY TO TAKE ALL OF THE BURDEN ALONE!
DON'T KILL OFF YOUR OWN GOALS JUST FOR OUR SAKES.
ARE WE REALLY SO UNRELIABLE!?
KIRIHITO!!


IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR US TO FIGHT TOGETHER!
WE EVEN HAVE MANAGERS.
THE STABLE MASTER, GOJOU'S KARATE INSTRUCTOR, THE OLD MAN FROM WAKAME FISHING...
YOU'VE CONNECTED US TO SO MANY PEOPLE THAT ARE HELPING OUR CLUB!

IF WE HAD A RELIABLE SIXTH PERSON AS A RESERVE,
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW REASSURING IT WOULD BE...
AND...

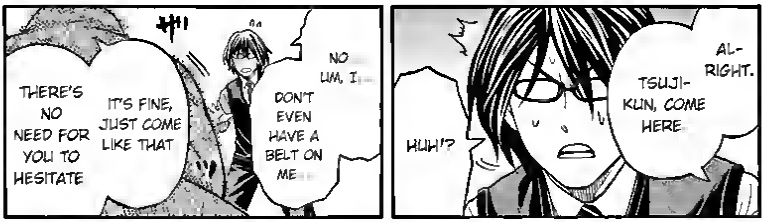
...IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SAYING ANY OF THIS OUT OF COMPASSION ALONE...
DURING THE INTER HIGH PRELIMI-NARIES...
BOTH HINOMARU-SAN AND SADA-SAN GOT INJURED, RIGHT?

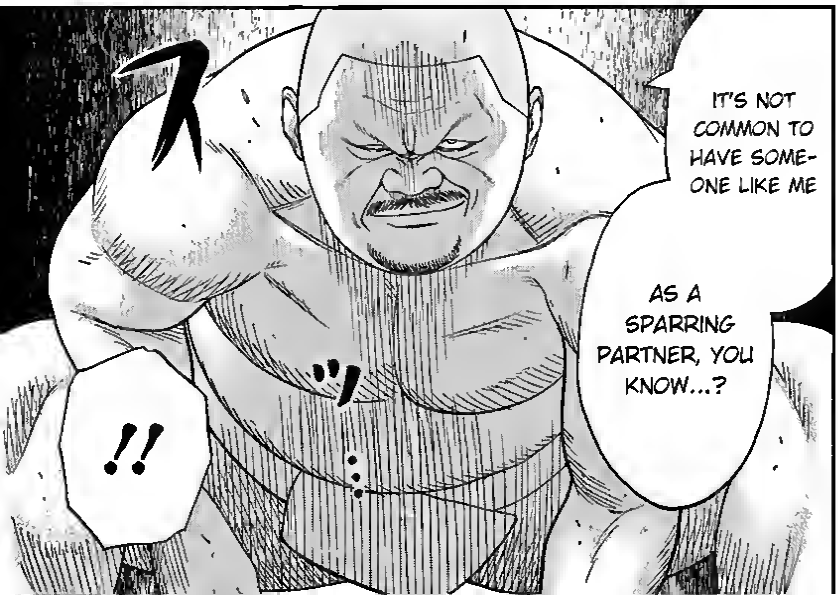
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT NOBODY WILL GET INJURED AT THE NATIONALS... IT MAY EVEN BE ME NEXT TIME...
BUT, DACHI HIGH DOESN'T HAVE MANY MEMBERS IN TIMES LIKE THOSE-


...OF COURSE, I DON'T INTENT TO GIVE UP MY POSITION AS A REGULAR
THAT'S RIGHT... I WILL COMPETE WITH YOU TO SOLIDIFY BY POSITION-
SO FROM NOW ON...

IF YOU DEDICATE YOUR ALL TO COACHING NOW,
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL BENEFIT US IN THE BEST WAY DOWN THE LINE
EVEN IF IT'S A GAMBLE, THERE COULD COME A TIME WHERE WE'LL NEED YOUR STRENGTH AS A WRESTLER!
IN ORDER FOR DACHI HIGH TO BECOME THE BEST IN JAPAN!!

I... I DON'T ...
.....
.....!!
LET'S ALL TRAIN TOGETHER!


THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO HESITATE
IT'S FINE, JUST COME LIKE THAT
NO UM, I... DON'T EVEN HAVE A BELT ON ME
HUH!?
TSUJI-KUN, COME HERE
AL-RIGHT.


!!
AS A SPARRING PARTNER, YOU KNOW...?
IT'S NOT COMMON TO HAVE SOME-ONE LIKE ME

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN STOP MYSELF IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS...!!
DAMMIT... THIS...
UH ...
BEGIN!!

I'M SUCH A PIECE OF SHIT..!!
SHIT... DAMMIT ...!
AT THIS RATE I WON'T EVEN LAST 20 SECONDS!
THIS IS BAD! I WAS SO NERVOUS THAT MY BREATHING IS IN DISSARAY!
GUH
IS THIS REALLY THE CHARGE OF SOMEONE IH HIS 50S!?
BUT ...
IT MAY CAUSE TROUBLE FOR EVERYONE...
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER HOT TO FIGHT THAN SHOW SUCH A SHAMEFUL PERFORMAHCE...
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THINGS WILL GO SMOOTHLY
YOU JUST HAVE TO WIN WITHIN 20 SECONDS...? SUMO'S NOT SUCH AN EASY SPORT...
MITSU-HASHI...
EVERY-ONE...
SHOULD FIGHT ANYWAY, AREN'T YOU...!?
THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME ...
YOU'RE SAYING

TL/N: TYPESTING DROP
OHH
COUGH
HAA
!
STABLE MASTER!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?
HEHEHEH... NOT EVEN SAENOYAMA HAS DONE THIS TO ME.
MAKI OTOSHI
THANKS!!

... YOU'RE STILL IN YOUR FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT?
IF YOU'RE UNSURE WHICH PATH TO TAKE,
YOU SHOULD TRY STEPPING DOWN ALL OF THEM.
HOWEVER, WERE YOU REALLY NOT TRAINING AT ALL?
YOU'RE PRETTY STRONG
WELL... I'VE TRIED TO MAINTAIN MY MUSCLE STRENGTH AT LEAST
I SEE... THAT'S WHY EVERYONE FELT SO STRONGLY ABOUT THIS
THAT'S RIGHT!
HE'S STRONG!
STOP IT...
"IN THE BEST WAY," HUH...
I DON'T KNOW HOW USEFUL I'LL BE, BUT...
BOTH MY SKILLS AS A COACH AND AS A WRESTLER...
I WILL USE THEM BOTH.
TO MAKE US THE BEST IN JAPAN!!

WE HAVE TO CONTINUE TRAINING IN ORDER TO MEET ALL OF YOUR EXPECTATIONS.
INDEED
YEH... WE REALLY WANT TO GO
BUT...
YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, SO YOU SHOULD'VE GONE TO WATCH THE NAGOYA TOURNAMENT TOMORROW AT LEAST...
THIS PAST WEEK'S GONE BY IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE...
ARE YOU REALLY GOING BACK ALREADY?
MEET THEIR EXPECTATIONS BY WINNING!!
LETS BOTH FIGHT TO THE END.
HAVE THEIR OWN SEPARATE BATTLEFIELDS
BOTH PROS AND STUDENTS
YES!!
THE NAGOYA TRAINING CAMP IS OVER...
HINOMARU ZUMOU
...ROUND 89 / END
NEXT TIME, A NEW DEVELOPMENT! FINALLY, THE CURTAINS RAISE ON THE TOURNAMENT!

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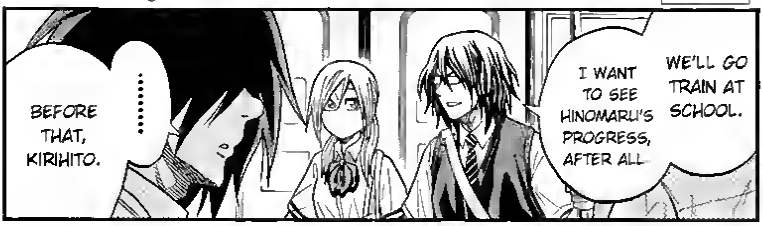
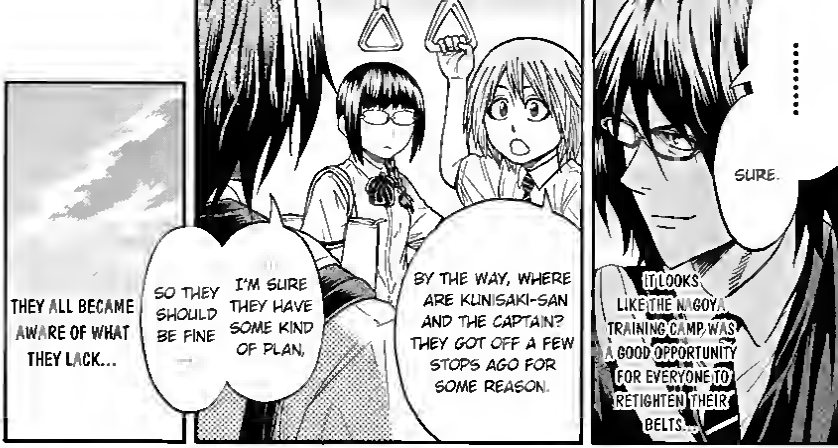
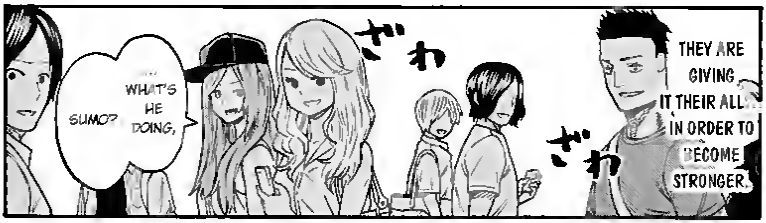
Round 90: THE HIGH SCHOOL YOKOZUNA



I WANT TO SEE THE TOTTORI HAKUROU VIDEO AGAIN
!
I WANT TO BURN TENNOUJI-SAN...
NO...
THE OPPONENT I HAVE TO DEFEAT INTO MY EYES ANEW.
THIS TIME I'LL WATCH IT LIKE A HAWK, WITHOUT AVERTING MY GAZE FROM HIM ...!


THEY ALL BECAME AWARE OF WHAT THEY LACK...
SO THEY SHOULD BE FINE
I'M SURE THEY HAVE SOME KIND OF PLAN.
BY THE WAY, WHERE ARE KUNISAKI-SAN AND THE CAPTAIN? THEY GOT OFF A FEW STOPS AGO FOR SOME REASON.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE NAGOYA TRAINING CAMP WAS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE TO RETIGHTEN THEIR BELTS...
SURE.



TL/N: HE IS JUST OUTSIDE SHIBUYA STATION, NEXT TO THE BUSIEST CROSSING IN THE WORLD (POOR GUY!)... THE DOG STATUE "HACHIKO" IS ICONIC AROUND JAPAN.

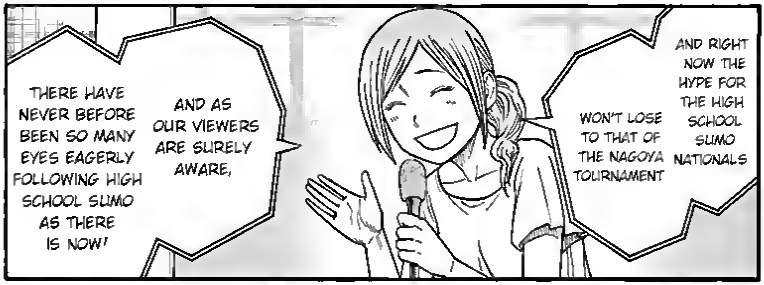
I WILL CHANGE MYSELF!!
IF I LACK THE GUTS, THEN I JUST NEED GET SOME!
URGH EVERYONE'S LOOKING AT ME... I'M SO EMBARRASSED I COULD DIE
BUT IF I CAN BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO THIS, I'M SURE THAT I CAN...
OSTEOPATHIC CLINIC
HELLO, CAPTAIN?
YEAH, IT'S HEALED QUITE WELL!
THERE WASN'T ANYTHING WRONG WITH THE BONE IN THE END... IF I KNEW THAT WAS THE CASE, I WOULD HAVE TAKEN PART IN THE INDIVIDUAL BOUTS TOO.
HAHAHAH, I'M JOKING, DON'T GET ANGRY~~~
STARTING TOMORROW, I'LL BE BACK TO TRAINING ALL OUT
SAY HI TO EVERYONE FOR ME ~~~ SEE YA
.....
WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT STARTING A DAY EARLY?
!

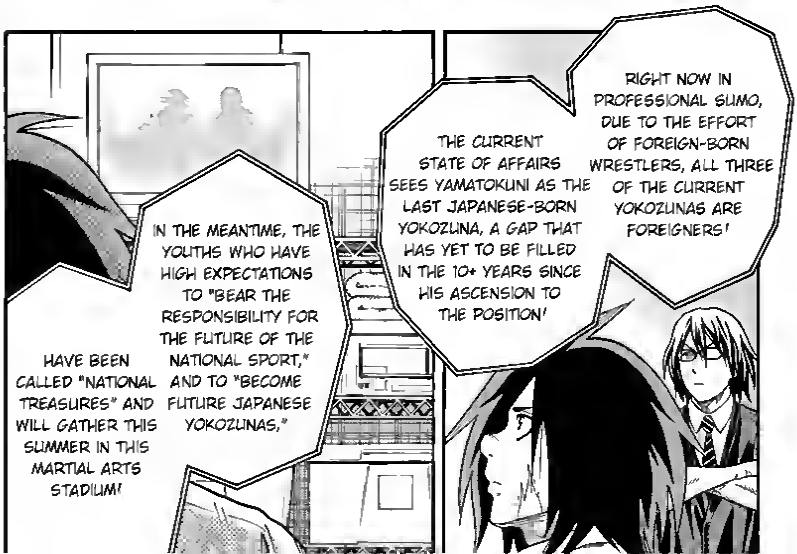
MIKAZUKI MUNECHIKA.

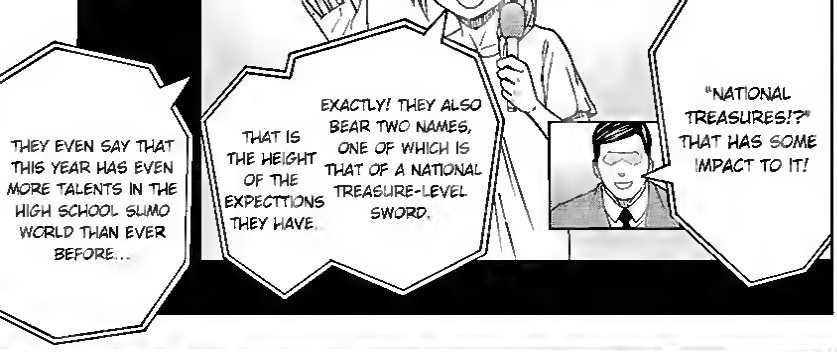
THIS IS THE BEST THING I COULD THINK OF.
PLEASE, TRAIN WITH ME.
...

I'M NOT THE CAPTAIN ANYMORE.
OK, LET'S RESUME EVERYONE.
YES!
GEEZ, THAT IDIOT.
石神高校相撲道
HAHAHAH, YOU'VE BECOME QUITE CAPTAIN-LIKE, HAVEN'T YOU
ISN'T THAT RIGHT? CAPTAIN MAMIYA!
GEH! SANADA-SAN
WHY'RE YOU HERE?
TURN ON THE TV FOR A MOMENT,
SOMETHING INTERESTING'S HAPPENING.

PAH
?
TOMORROW, THE GRAND SUMO TOURNAMENT IN NAGOYA WILL FINALLY BEGIN...
THEN THIS SHOULD BE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY
YOU WANT TO BURN TENNOUJI INTO YOUR EYES, RIGHT?


THERE HAVE NEVER BEFORE BEEN SO MANY EYES EAGERLY FOLLOWING HIGH SCHOOL SUMO AS THERE IS NOW!
AND AS OUR VIEWERS ARE SURELY AWARE,
WON'T LOSE TO THAT OF THE NAGOYA TOURNAMENT
AND RIGHT NOW THE HYPE FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL SUMO NATIONALS


HAVE BEEN CALLED "NATIONAL TREASURES" AND WILL GATHER THIS SUMMER IN THIS MARTIAL ARTS STADIUM!
IN THE MEANTIME, THE YOUTHS WHO HAVE HIGH EXPECTATIONS TO "BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL SPORT," AND TO "BECOME FUTURE JAPANESE YOKOZUNAS,"
THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS SEES YAMATOKUNI AS THE LAST JAPANESE-BORN YOKOZUNA, A GAP THAT HAS YET TO BE FILLED IN THE 10+ YEARS SINCE HIS ASCENSION TO THE POSITION!
RIGHT NOW IN PROFESSIONAL SUMO, DUE TO THE EFFORT OF FOREIGN-BORN WRESTLERS, ALL THREE OF THE CURRENT YOKOZUNAS ARE FOREIGNERS!

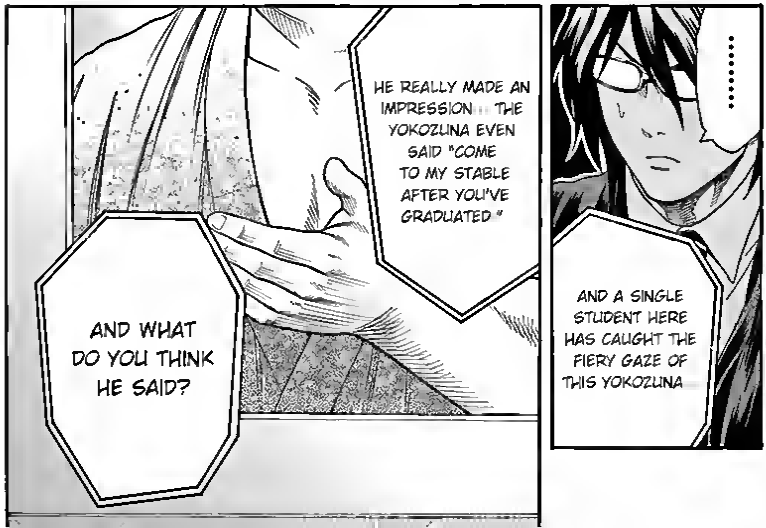

"NATIONAL TREASURES!?" THAT HAS SOME IMPACT TO IT!
EXACTLY! THEY ALSO BEAR TWO NAMES, ONE OF WHICH IS THAT OF A NATIONAL TREASURE-LEVEL SWORD.
THAT IS THE HEIGHT OF THE EXPECTTIONS THEY HAVE.
THEY EVEN SAY THAT THIS YEAR HAS EVEN MORE TALENTS IN THE HIGH SCHOOL SUMO WORLD THAN EVER BEFORE...

TOTTORI HAKUROU HIGH SCHOOL!
AND RIGHT NOW WE ARE AT A SCHOOL THAT CAN HOLD PRIDE IN ITS OVERWHELMING STRENGTH
WHICH HAS ENABLED THEM TO WIN SEVEN CONSECUTIVE INTER-HIGH CHAMPIONSHIPS,

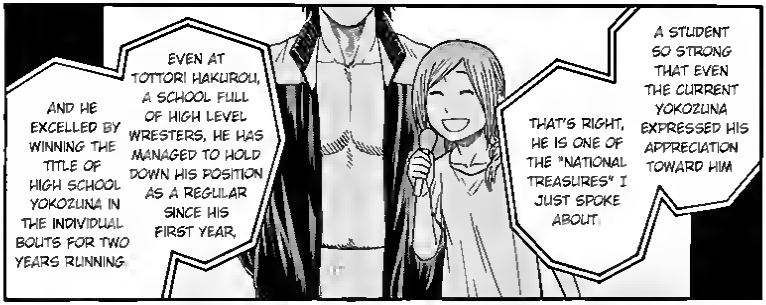
!!
RIGHT NOW, TOTTORI HAKUROU HIGH SCHOOL IS NOT ONLY ENROLLING JAPANESE STUDENTS FROM AROUND COUNTRY,
BUT IT IS ALSO ACTIVELY ACCEPTING FOREIGN STUDENTS FROM MONGOLIA.
THERE ARE MANY PRO WRESTLERS WHO HAVE COME FROM THIS SCHOOL, AND THE MOST PROMINENT ONE IS SURELY...

THE STRONGEST CURRENT YOKOZUNA,
JINOU-ZEKI.

LAST WEEK JINOU-ZEKI VISITED HIS FORMER SCHOOL
AND TRAINED HERE WITH HIS JUNIORS, SHEDDING PLENTY OF SWEAT AND TEARS TOGETHER IN THIS PLACE THAT REPRESENTS FOR HIM, A SECOND POINT OF ORIGIN ONLY COMPARABLE TO THAT OF MONGOLIA, HIS HOME COUNTRY
EH!?
THE MIDGET ONLY LASTED A FEW SECONDS AGAINST HIM THOUGH!


HE REALLY MADE AN IMPRESSION... THE YOKOZUNA EVEN SAID "COME TO MY STABLE AFTER YOU'VE GRADUATED."
AND WHAT DO YOU THINK HE SAID?
.....
AND A SINGLE STUDENT HERE HAS CAUGHT THE FIERY GAZE OF THIS YOKOZUNA

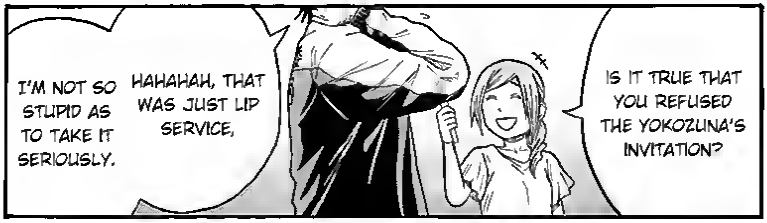
"IF WE'RE IN THE SAME STABLE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO FIGHT DURING TOURNAMENTS.
I WANT TO FIGHT AGAINST A YOKOZUNA, SO I REFUSE."
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID
HAHAHAH, WHAT A GUY!


A STUDENT SO STRONG THAT EVEN THE CURRENT YOKOZUNA EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TOWARD HIM
THAT'S RIGHT, HE IS ONE OF THE "NATIONAL TREASURES" I JUST SPOKE ABOUT.
EVEN AT TOTTORI HAKUROU, A SCHOOL FULL OF HIGH LEVEL WRESTERS, HE HAS MANAGED TO HOLD DOWN HIS POSITION AS A REGULAR SINCE HIS FIRST YEAR.
AND HE EXCELLED BY WINNING THE TITLE OF HIGH SCHOOL YOKOZUNA IN THE INDIVIDUAL BOUTS FOR TWO YEARS RUNNING.

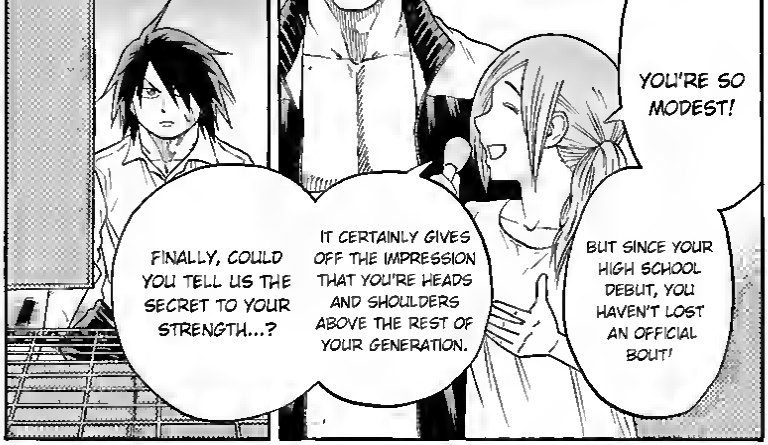
HE IS LITERALLY THE STRONGEST MAN IN CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL SUMO,
THE NATIONAL TREASURE "DOUJIKIRI YASUTSUNA"
TENNOUJI SHIDOU-KUN!

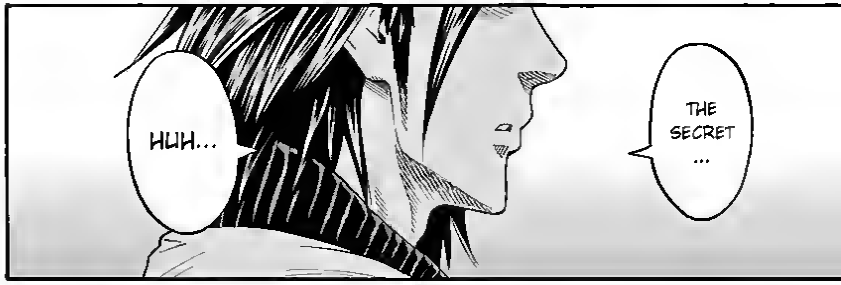
HELLO
I'M THE CAPTAIN, TENNOUJI.

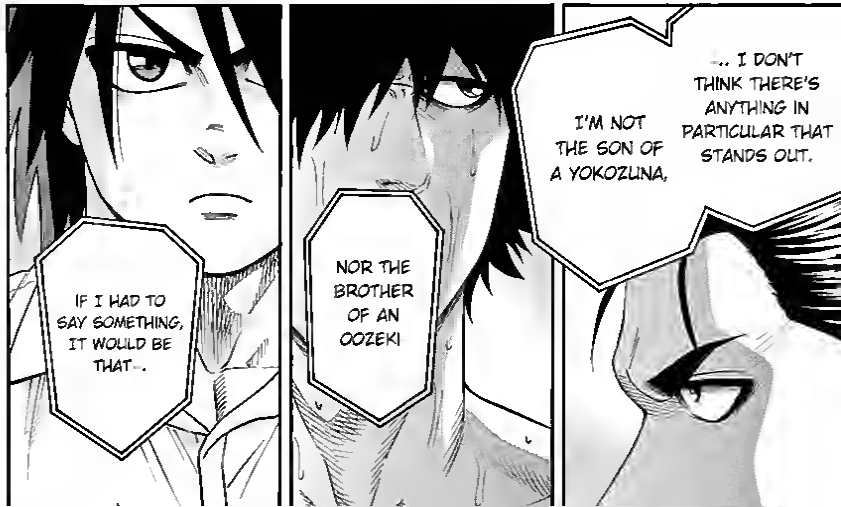
YOU'RE SO BIG!
ARE YOU REALLY A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT!?
I'M NOTHING IMPRESSIVE, THERE ARE MANY OTHERS OF MY SIZE AROUND THE COUNTRY


IS IT TRUE THAT YOU REFUSED THE YOKOZUNA'S INVITATION?
HAHAHAH, THAT WAS JUST LIP SERVICE,
I'M NOT SO STUPID AS TO TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.

I'M EXPECTED TO WIN MY THIRD CONSECUTIVE CHAMPIONSHIP THIS YEAR, BUT THAT'S NO SIMPLE FEAT
EVERY WRESTER IN THE COUNTRY IS MY RIVAL NOW.
HEH ...
HE'S ONLY SAYING WHAT THEY WANT TO HEAR..
.....
栄葉大附
相撲


YOU'RE SO MODEST!
BUT SINCE YOUR HIGH SCHOOL DEBUT, YOU HAVEN'T LOST AN OFFICIAL BOUT!
IT CERTAINLY GIVES OFF THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU'RE HEADS AND SHOULDERS ABOVE THE REST OF YOUR GENERATION.
FINALLY, COULD YOU TELL US THE SECRET TO YOUR STRENGTH...?


THE SECRET ...
HUH...


... I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR THAT STANDS OUT.
I'M NOT THE SON OF A YOKOZUNA,
NOR THE BROTHER OF AN OOZEKI
IF I HAD TO SAY SOMETHING, IT WOULD BE THAT...

I'M THE ONE WHO LIKES SUMO MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
I'M THE ONE WHO LOVES SUMO THE MOST,
AND I'M THE ONE WHO TRAINS THE MOST.

THAT'S WHY I AM
THE STRON-GEST

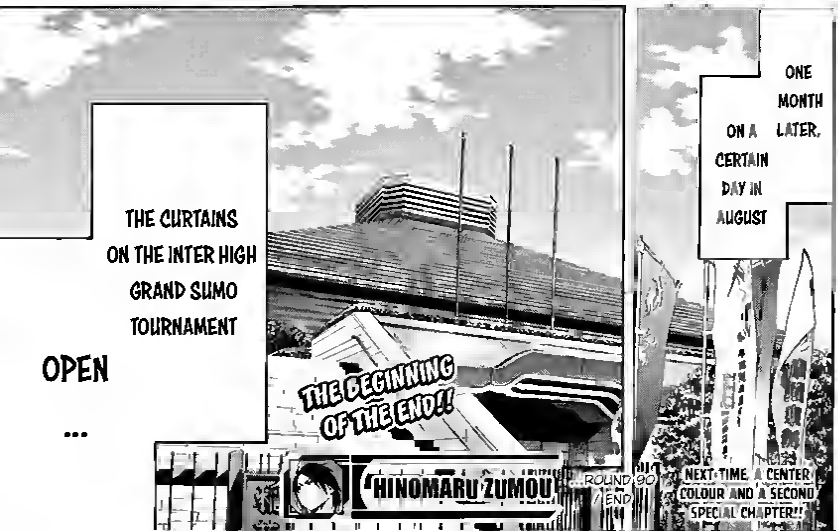
THE AIR HE GIVES OFF IS WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT OF A YOKOZUNA.
HINOMARU, I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND, BUT...
YES
HE IS ABLE TO MAKE HIS MODESTY AND PRIDE COEXIST TO HEIGHTEN HIS PERSONALITY.
HE WAS BY NO MEANS FAKING HIS MODESTY. BUT ONCE YOU PEEL OFF THE TOP LAYER OF THAT GRACEFUL APPEARANCE, YOU FIND THE "DEMON" THAT LIES UNDERNEATH...
HE MAY BE PEERLESS IN HIGH SCHOOL, BUT
A DECLARATION OF WAR
POINTED TOWARDS ALL OF THE HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLERS, HUH...
DURING THE INTER HIGH, TENNOUJI WILL PROBABLY BE STRONGER
THAN THE YOKOZUNA I FACED TODAY
...
FURTHERMORE, THE HIGH SCHOOL YOKOZUNA TENNOUJI. YOU KNOW THERE'S MORE TO HIM THAN JUST HIS "TECHNIQUE" AND "BODY"... RIGHT?
HOWEVER, AGAINST YOU, A SINGLE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIS "SPIRIT" TO GET FIRED UP.
THE YOKOZUNA ACCEPTED THE FIGHT TODAY OUT OF GOOD FAITH.
YOUR POLISHED "TECHNIQUE"... TRAINED "BODY"... AND BURNING "SPIRIT" BECOME YOUR STRENGTH AS YOU FIGHT,

YOU SHOULD ASSUME THAT THE TENNOUJI SHIDOU YOU'LL MEET AT THE INTER HIGH'S "SPIRIT" WILL BE FIRED UP
AND SEVERAL TIMES MORE FRIGHTENING THAN THE YOKOZUNA YOU MET TODAY...
GEEZ, WE'RE NOT LUCKY, ARE WE...
WHY DID WE HAVE TO BE BORN IN THIS GENERATION...?
... NO THAT'S NOT THE PROBLEM.
EVERYONE WHO IS AIMING FOR THE TOP IS AWARE OF TENNOUJI
FOR THE VERY REASON THAT HE HAS CONTINUED TO BE THE STRONGEST.
ALL THOSE WHO TRIED FOLLOWING HIS LEAD WERE NATURALLY ABLE TO BECOME STRONGER FROM DOING SO.
IF HE WASN'T AROUND, I'M SURE I WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COME THIS FAR
I AM GRATEFUL TO HIM
ALL THAT'S LEFT...

IS TO TAKE HIS HEAD
AND BECOME THE "STRONGEST IN HIGH SCHOOL."

I'M PROUD OF ALL THE THINGS I'VE DONE ON THE JOURNEY THAT BROUGHT ME HERE, SO...
I WILL NO LONGER FAULTER WHEN I LOOK AT YOU.
SEVERAL TIMES MORE THAN WHEN HE FOUGHT THE YOKOZUNA!
HINOMARU WILL SHINE
BUT ONCE HE FIGHT'S AGAINST HINOMARU ON THE RING,
TENNOUJI IS STRONG,

I WILL GIVE YOU EVERYTHING I HAVE...!
WAIT FOR ME AT NATIONALS...


THE CURTAINS ON THE INTER HIGH GRAND SUMO TOURNAMENT
OPEN
...
THE BEGINNING OF THE END!!
ONE MONTH LATER,
ON A CERTAIN DAY IN AUGUST
HINOMARU ZUMOU
ROUND 90
END
NEXT TIME, A CENTER COLOUR AND A SECOND SPECIAL CHAPTER!!

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FA

REDRAWER
Rekun

TRANSLATOR
Aegon

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PROOFREADER
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BY KAWADA

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火ノ丸相撲

ひのまるずもう

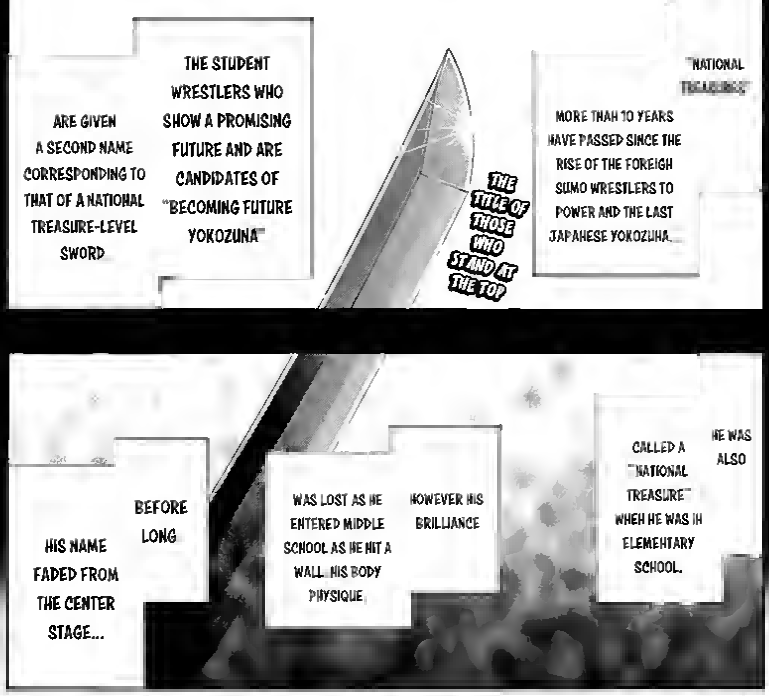
☆IH今国本戦突入!!番外特別編も!!て掲載(カラー

EVERY-THING WILL BE DECIDED

THE DECISIVE BATTLE AT THE KOKUGIKAN

BEGINS !!

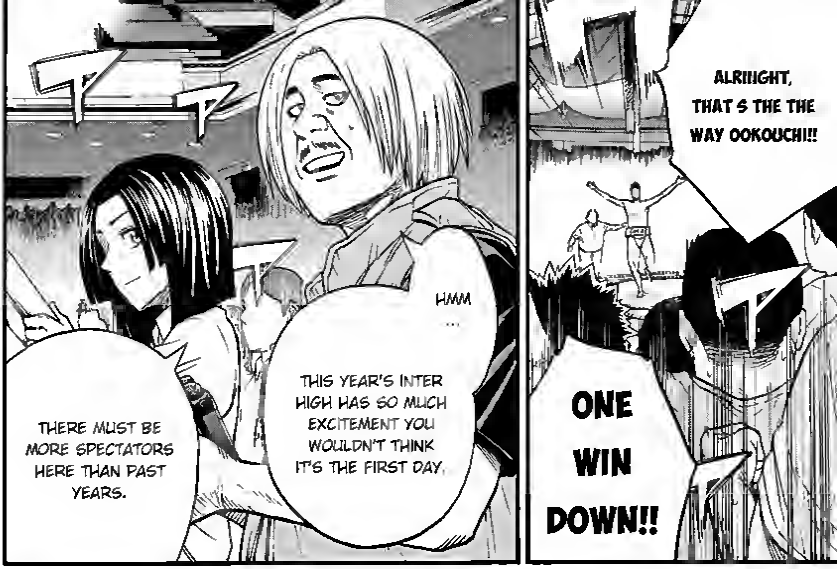
川田


ARE GIVEN A SECOND NAME CORRESPONDING TO THAT OF A NATIONAL TREASURE-LEVEL SWORD
THE STUDENT WRESTLERS WHO SHOW A PROMISING FUTURE AND ARE CANDIDATES OF "BECOMING FUTURE YOKOZUNA"
THE TITLE OF THOSE WHO STAND AT THE TOP
"NATIONAL TREASURE"
MORE THAN 10 YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE RISE OF THE FOREIGN SUMO WRESTLERS TO POWER AND THE LAST JAPANESE YOKOZUNA...
HIS NAME FADED FROM THE CENTER STAGE...
BEFORE LONG
WAS LOST AS HE ENTERED MIDDLE SCHOOL AS HE HIT A WALL. HIS BODY PHYSIQUE
HOWEVER HIS BRILLIANCE
CALLED A "NATIONAL TREASURE" WHEN HE WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
HE WAS ALSO

Round 91: THE "NATION TREASURE" WHO HAS RETURNED

T/N: IT IS HIS MOTHER TOMB, THE SURNAME WRITTEN ON IT IS "USHIO"

平成　年度
全国高等学校総合体育大会相
第　回
全国高等学校相撲選手権大会
ALRIGHT, A DOUBLE UNDERARM GRIP.
GO, GO, GO!!
DAAAH!!

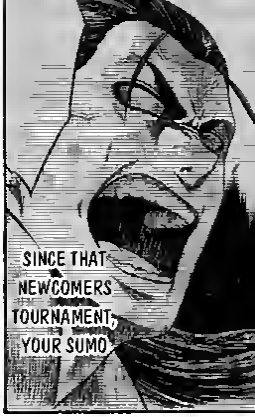

ALRIIIGHT, THAT S THE THE WAY OOKOUCHI!!
ONE WIN DOWN!!
HMM ...
THIS YEAR'S INTER HIGH HAS SO MUCH EXCITEMENT YOU WOULDN'T THINK IT'S THE FIRST DAY.
THERE MUST BE MORE SPECTATORS HERE THAN PAST YEARS.

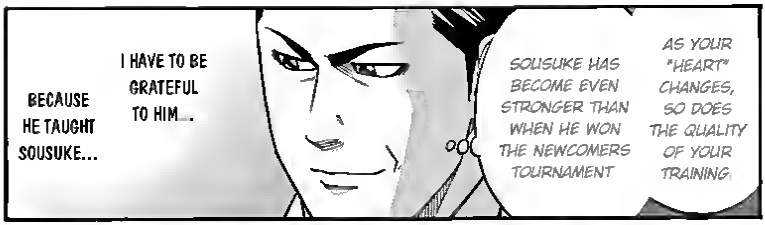
... NO DOUBT IT'S DUE TO THE "NATIONAL TREASURES." THE LEVEL OF ATTENTION IS ON A TOTALLY DIFFERENT LEVEL THAN BEFORE.
IT LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE EVEN MORE STABLE MASTERS HERE THAN USUAL TO SCOUT.
EVEN THE PRO WRESTLERS STAND OUT... SOME WOULD THINK THEY'RE HERE TO CHEER FOR THEIR FORMER SCHOOLS
BUT THEY'RE ACTUALLY HERE TO SIZE UP THEIR FUTURE RIVALS...

ARE THEY HOLDING THE PRELIMINARIES FOR THE INDIVIDUAL BOUTS RIGHT NOW?
YEAH
APPARENTLY FIRST THEY'LL HAVE 3 BOUTS IN THE PRELIMINARIES, AND THOSE THAT WIN MORE THAN 2 OF THE 3 WILL ADVANCE TO THE FINAL TOURNAMENT
HMM
THEY'RE GOING TO HOLD BOTH THE INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM BOUTS IN JUST THREE DAYS
WHAT AN INTENSE SCHEDULE
HEH.
IT'S BEEN LONG TIME SINCE YOU'VE WATCH HIGH SCHOOL SUMO
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THE ONE THAT DRAWS THE MOST ATTENTION
IS HIM.
THE LEVEL IS CERTAINLY QUITE HIGH
THERE'S ALMOST NO DIFFERENCE IN SKILL BETWEEN THE PROS AND AMATEURS OF THIS GENERATION
BUT AMONG THEM,

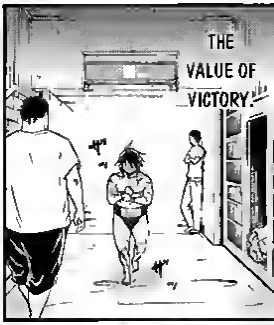
SO THAT'S THE INFAMOUS KUSANAGI, YAMATO KUNI'S SON,
KUZE SOUSUKE.

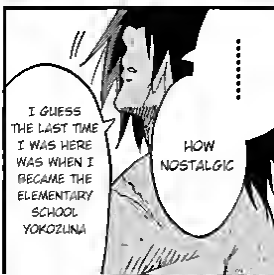
...I SEE
"NATIONAL TREASURES," HUH...
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
THAT'S
...NOW THAT'S A PROMISING EXPRESSION
.....
BUT-
IT WAS JUST SOMETHING YOU HAD TO DO TO UPHOLD OUR, THE YAMATOKUNI NAME
YOU NEITHER LOVED NOR HATED
UNTIL NOW, SUMO WAS SOMETHING
THE FACE OF SOMEONE WHO LOVES SUMO.



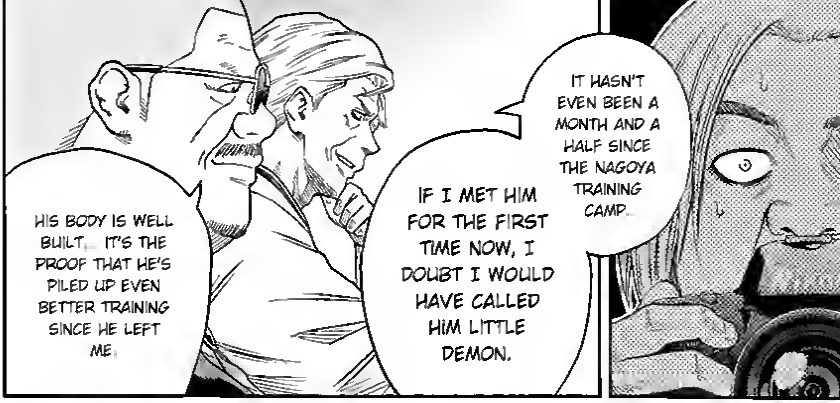

BECAUSE HE TAUGHT SOUSUKE...
I HAVE TO BE GRATEFUL TO HIM...
SOUSUKE HAS BECOME EVEN STRONGER THAN WHEN HE WON THE NEWCOMERS TOURNAMENT
AS YOUR "HEART" CHANGES, SO DOES THE QUALITY OF YOUR TRAINING

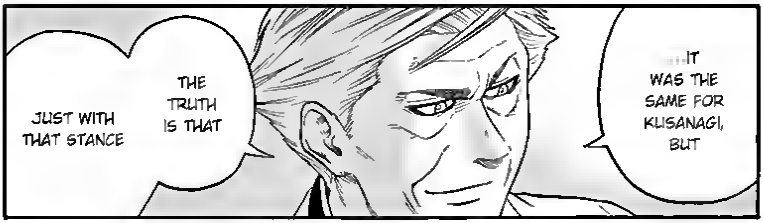
T/N: THE LARGEST SUMO STADIUM IN JAPAN





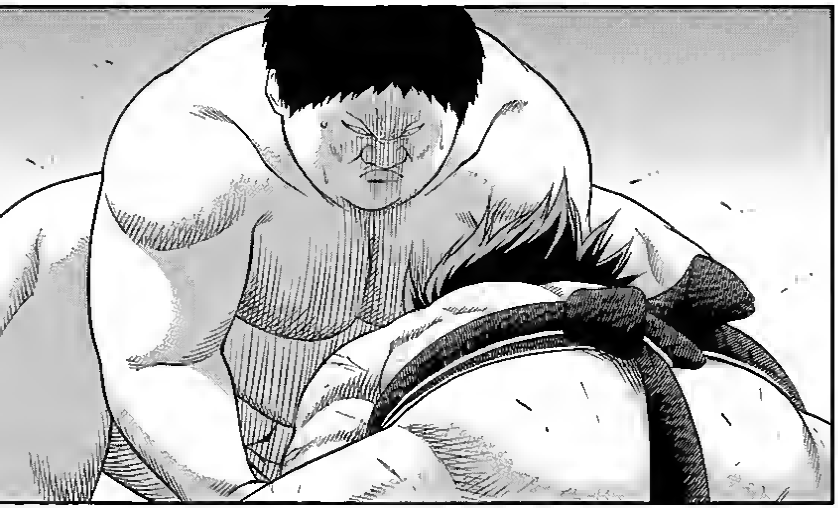
I CAN HARDLY IMAGINE HIS SUFFERING.
HE REALLY LOVES SUMO...
AND EVERY TIME HE STANDS UP
!
AND NOW HE'S BACK HERE WITH US.
HE WAS KNOCKED DOWN OVER AND OVER AND YET... EVERY TIME HE STOOD UP.
HE BECOMES STRONGER ...!!
IN THE EASTERN CORNER USHIO-KUN...


IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A MONTH AND A HALF SINCE THE NAGOYA TRAINING CAMP...
IF I MET HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME NOW, I DOUBT I WOULD HAVE CALLED HIM LITTLE DEMON.
HIS BODY IS WELL BUILT... IT'S THE PROOF THAT HE'S PILED UP EVEN BETTER TRAINING SINCE HE LEFT ME.


...IT WAS THE SAME FOR KUSANAGI, BUT
THE TRUTH IS THAT
JUST WITH THAT STANCE

HE'S ATTRACTING THE ENTIRE AUDIENCES ATTENTION.

HEH
HE JUST STANDS OUT BECAUSE OF HIS HEIGHT
AT THAT HEIGHT, NO MATTER WHAT PATH HE TAKES, BECOMING A PRO IS IMPOSSIBLE...
シィン...
ATTENTION IS DRAWN BY HIS AURA...
IT'S NOT JUST THE OTHER WRESTLERS,
HE'S EVEN ATTRACTING THE AUDIENCE MEMBERS WHO DON'T KNOW HIM.
EVERYONE'S



BEGIN!!!

...THE RETURN OF ONIMARU?
ARE YOU STILL TALKING ABOUT THAT...?
JUST RECENTLY YOU WROTE AN ARTICLE OF YOUR OWN ACCORD TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT I DIDN'T NOTICE IT
WE ALL SAY ONIMARU THIS AND ONIMARU THAT BECAUSE IT'S EASIER TO SAY BUT... JUST BECAUSE HE MADE IT THROUGH THE PREFECTURAL PRELIMINARIES IT DOESN'T RESTORE HIS STATUS AS A "NATIONAL TREASURE"
THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU TO WATCH THE MATCHES! IF YOU DO I'M SURE
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY AT THE FIRST SIGHT OF EXCITEMENT. YOU SHOULD HAVE LEARNT FROM WHAT HAPPENED WITH HIM 3 YEARS AGO!
HEY... DO YOU REALLY KNOW THE MEANING OF "NATIONAL TREASURE?"
IT MEANS THOSE WHO ARE "FUTURE YOKOZUNA CANDIDATES!"
HE'S TOO SHORT, AT THIS RATE HE WON'T EVEN BECOME A PRO.
THERE'S NO PATH FOR SOMEONE LIKE THAT TO BECOME YOKOZUNA!!
AND WEREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO SAID THAT ONIMARU HAD COMPLETELY FALLEN OFF THE RADAR IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, NAZUKA?
"ONI-MARU IS FINISHED," "HE SOILED THE VERY NAME OF NATIONAL TREASURE"
DO YOU FEEL GUILTY AT ALL?
YOU SHOULDN'T LET YOUR FEELINGS GET IN THE WAY OF YOUR JOB!

...DURING THE SPRING TEAM TOURNAMENT, HIS TEAM WAS ELIMINATED.. DURING THE KANTOU NEW COMERS TOURNAMENT WE WAS USED AS A STEPPING STONE BY KUSANAGI
UNTIL NOW, YOU COULD SAY THAT THE LIGHT HAS NEVER SHONE FAVOURABLY UPON HIM...
H-HEY!?
...HE CAME HERE TO...
PROVE EVERYONE WRONG
?
A PLACE WHERE THE LIGHT SHINES EVERYWHERE...
... BUT HE HAS FINALLY RETURNED TO NATIONALS,
BECAUSE YOU ARE-
YEAH...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WILL EVER DOUBT YOU AGAIN...!!
EVERYONE IS WATCHING YOU.
NO ONE ...

THE "NATIONAL TREASURE"
ONIMARU KUNITSUNA ...!!!
THE BOY OVERCAME HIS PHYSIQUE AND THE DEFEATS HE SUFFERED... NOW HE IS BACK HERE!!
HE'S STRONG ...!
HINOMARU ZUMOU
ROUND 91 / END

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FA

REDRAWER
Rekun

TRANSLATOR
Aegon

CLEANER
ManhHai090

PROOFREADER
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QUALITY CHECKER
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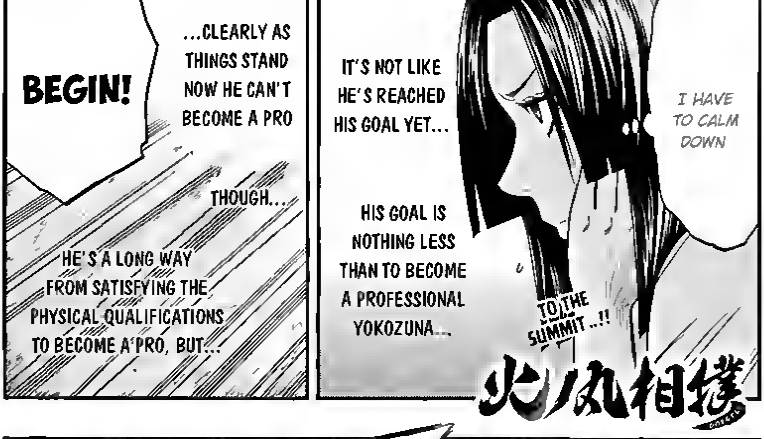
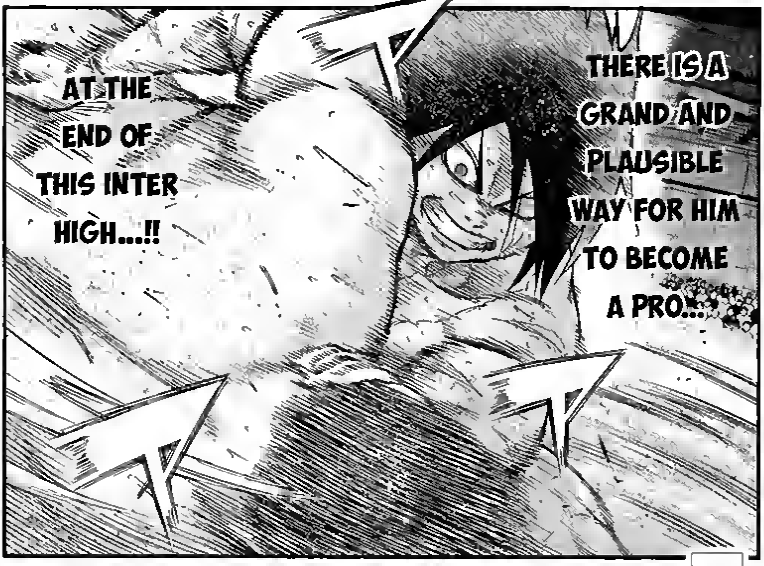
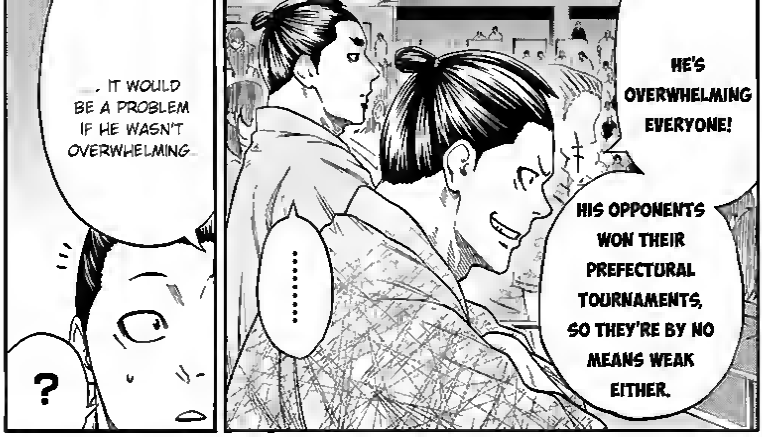

BEGIN!
...CLEARLY AS THINGS STAND NOW HE CAN'T BECOME A PRO
THOUGH...
HE'S A LONG WAY FROM SATISFYING THE PHYSICAL QUALIFICATIONS TO BECOME A PRO, BUT...
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S REACHED HIS GOAL YET...
I HAVE TO CALM DOWN
HIS GOAL IS NOTHING LESS THAN TO BECOME A PROFESSIONAL YOKOZUNA...
TO THE SUMMIT...!!
火ノ丸相撲



Round 92: THE WAY TO BECOME A PRO

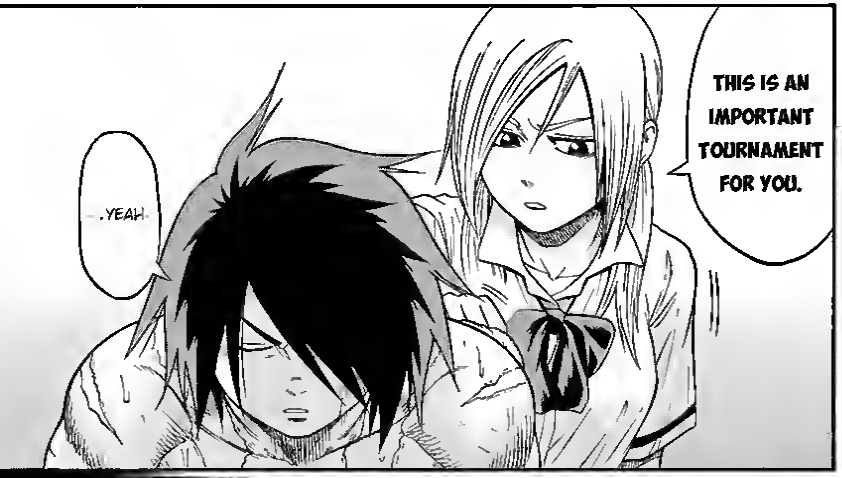
HE SEEMS TO BE AT THE TOP OF HIS GAME, THAT HINOMARU!
ALRIGHT! WITH THIS HE HAS THREE VICTORIES AND HAS PASSED THE PRELIMINARIES!
FOR THAT PURPOSE, FIRST HE HAS TO...


... IT WOULD BE A PROBLEM IF HE WASN'T OVERWHELMING...
?
.....
HE'S OVERWHELMING EVERYONE!
HIS OPPONENTS WON THEIR PREFECTURAL TOURNAMENTS, SO THEY'RE BY NO MEANS WEAK EITHER.

THE GOAL HE IS AIMING FOR HAS AN EXCLUSIVE ENTRANCE...
HE HAS TO SHOW HOW BIG OF A DIFFERENCE THERE IS BETWEEN HIM AND HIS OPPONENTS...

TLN: A "TSUKEDASHI" IS A WRESTLER WHO HAS WON A MAJOR (NATIONAL LEVEL) TOURNAMENT AS AN AMATEUR. THIS ALLOWS THEM DIRECT ENTRY INTO THE PROFESSIONAL SUMO WORLD, BYPASSING OTHER CONDITIONS. THEY ALSO SKIP THE BOTTOM FEW RANKS.

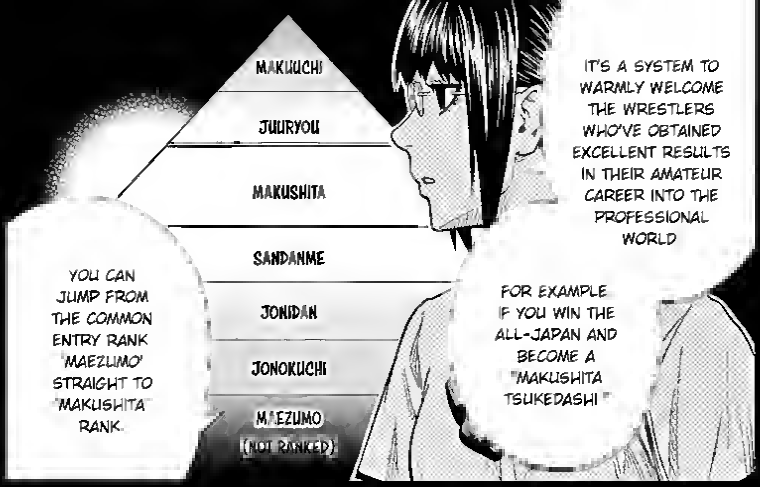
GOOD WORK
THANKS
CAPTAIN, I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO HELP ME WARM UP AGAIN LATER
OF COURSE!
.....
BE SURE TO WIPE YOURSELF PROPERLY SO YOU DON'T COOL DOWN
OH
THANKS.


THIS IS AN IMPORTANT TOURNAMENT FOR YOU.
...YEAH

.....
ONE MONTH AGO
CAN HE REALLY BECOME A PRO?
HUH?

UM. . I WAS INTERESTED SO I DID SOME RESEARCH AND. .
FOR HIM TO BECOME A PRO
HE NEEDS TO PASS THE HEIGHT RESTRICTION OF 167CM, SO...
HE'S MORE THAN 10CM TOO SHORT...
HOW IS HE PLANNING ON BECOMING A PRO...
... HAVE YOU ASKED HIM ABOUT IT?
AFTER SEEING HIM PUT IN SO MUCH EFFORT...
I'M FRIGHTENED
I CAN'T!
WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO ABOUT HIS FUTURE GOAL
I DON T WANT TO ASK HIM

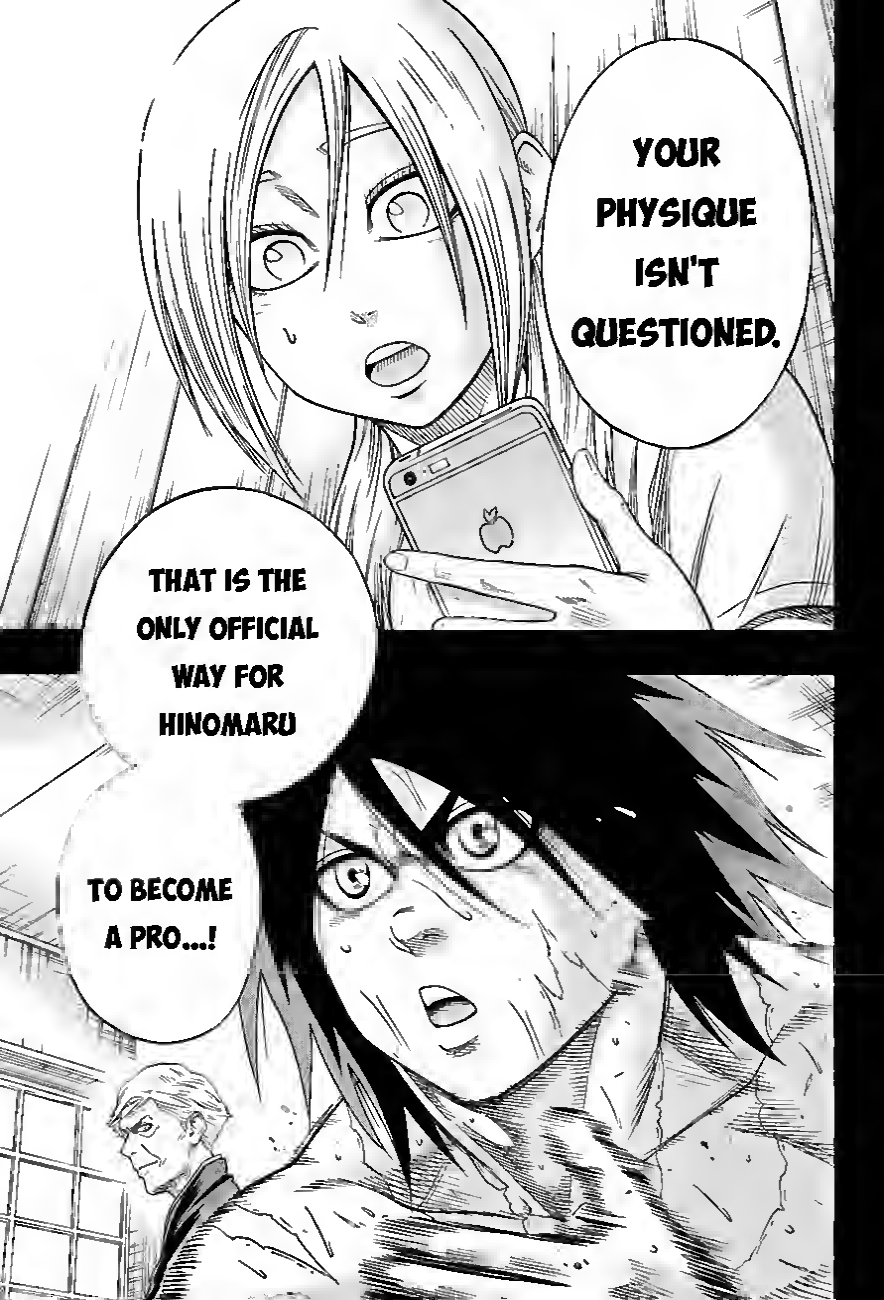
TRY SEARCHING AGAIN FOR THE WORD "MAKUSHITA TSUKEDASHI"
?
.....
WELL, YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH RESEARCH BY YOURSELF
BUT YOU WERE JUST ONE STEP SHORT OF THE ANSWER
THE WINNER OF THE INTER HIGH INDIVIDUAL BOUTS IS NAMED THE "HIGH SCHOOL YOKOZUNA"
PLUS
THEY ALSO EARN THE RIGHT TO APPEAR IN THAT YEAR'S "ALL-JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIP"
THE "ALL-JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIP" IS A TOURNAMENT TO DETERMINE THE BEST WRESTLERS AMONG THOSE THAT AREN'T PROS, THAT IS, THOSE IN HIGH SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY OR IN THE WORK FORCE.
IF YOU'RE ABLE TO OBTAIN GOOD RESULTS IN THIS TOURNAMENT YOU CAN BE QUALIFIED FOR THE "MAKUSHITA TSUKEDASHI" AND "SANDANME TSUKEDASHI" POSITIONS.
TSUKE-DASHI?


MAKUUCHI
JUURYOU
MAKUSHITA
SANDANME
JONIDAN
JONOKUCHI
MAEZUMO
(NOT RANKED)
IT'S A SYSTEM TO WARMLY WELCOME THE WRESTLERS WHO'VE OBTAINED EXCELLENT RESULTS IN THEIR AMATEUR CAREER INTO THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD
FOR EXAMPLE IF YOU WIN THE ALL-JAPAN AND BECOME A "MAKUSHITA TSUKEDASHI"
YOU CAN JUMP FROM THE COMMON ENTRY RANK 'MAEZUMO' STRAIGHT TO "MAKUSHITA" RANK.

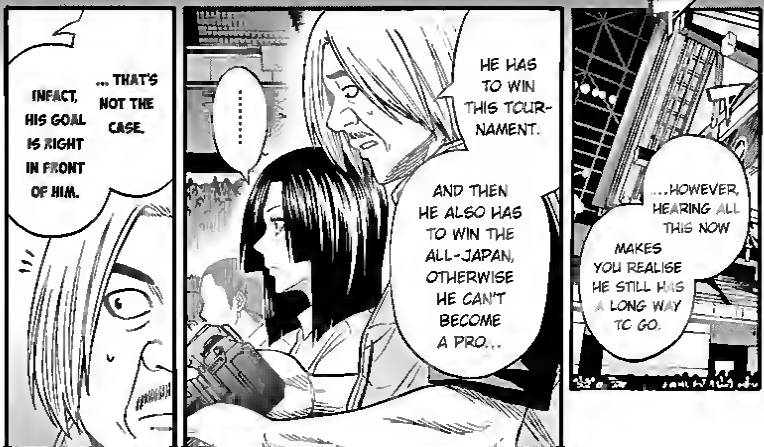
THAT SOUNDS COOL BUT I'VE GOT MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT IT IT WOULD MEAN I'D HAVE START CALLING HIM "HINOMARU-SAN".
sandanme
jonokuchi
EH! SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT HINOMARU CAN ENTER INTO PROFESSIONAL SUMO WITH A RANKING HIGHER THAN TERA-SAN AND KUNBUU-SAN!?

TERA-SAN -SAN SUFFIX SHOWS RESPECT TO THE PERSON YOU ARE TALKING TO. IN SUMO THE HIGHER RANKS DESERVE MORE RESPECT. THIS IS DIFFERENT TO NORMAL SOCIETY IN WHICH AGE EQUALS MORE RESPECT. SO IF HINOMARU IS RANKED HIGHER THAN TERA, TERA MUST USE RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE TOWARD HIM.

IS THAT WHEN YOU BECOME A PRO...
YOU OBTAIN WHEN YOU BECOME A TSUKEDASHI
THAT PART IS NOT WHAT'S IMPORTANT FOR HINOMARU.
THE SECOND RIGHT...
THAT STILL WOULDN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM WITH HIS HEIGHT?
WAIT A SECOND
WELL...

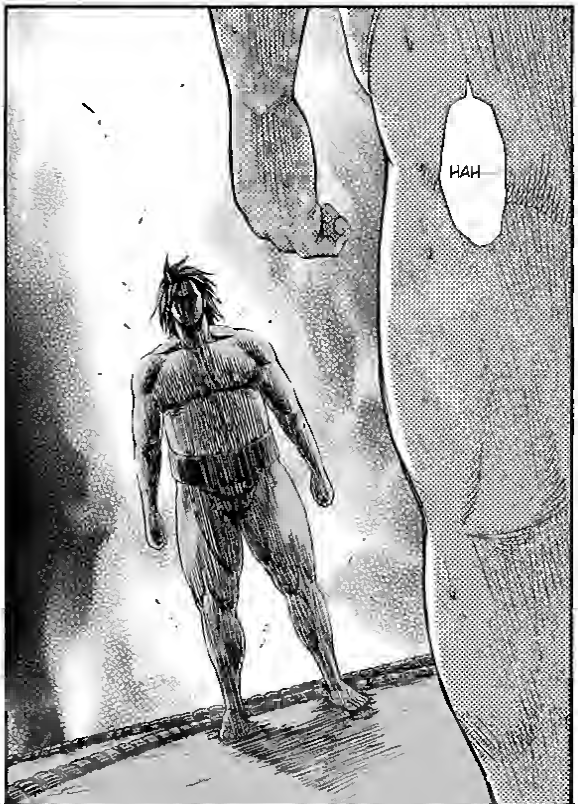

YOUR PHYSIQUE ISN'T QUESTIONED.
THAT IS THE ONLY OFFICIAL WAY FOR HINOMARU
TO BECOME A PRO...!

IS OUR DREAM AS WELL.
...HINOMARU BECOMING A PRO
WE'LL SUPPORT HIM WITH EVERY-THING WE HAVE.
WE WILL DO
EVERY-THING WE CAN...!


... THAT'S NOT THE CASE.
INFACT, HIS GOAL IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM.
.....
HE HAS TO WIN THIS TOUR-NAMENT.
AND THEN HE ALSO HAS TO WIN THE ALL-JAPAN, OTHERWISE HE CAN'T BECOME A PRO...
...HOWEVER, HEARING ALL THIS NOW
MAKES YOU REALISE HE STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO.

BECAUSE...
IF ONIMARU PRODUCES RESULTS IN THIS TOURNAMENT,
THEN IT'S NOT AN EXAGGERATION TO SAY THAT HE CAN BECOME A PRO
.....
ONIMARU'S REVIVAL... HUH
AS LONG AS HE HAS THAT EXPRESSION ON HIS FACE.
HE CAN'T SURPASS ME.
HE WENT THROUGH THREE YEARS OF TRAININ'
WHAT INCREDIBLE ENDURANCE HE HAS
HE REALLY HAS BECOME STRONG
BUT...
HIS EXPRESSION IS A BIT TOO TENSE.

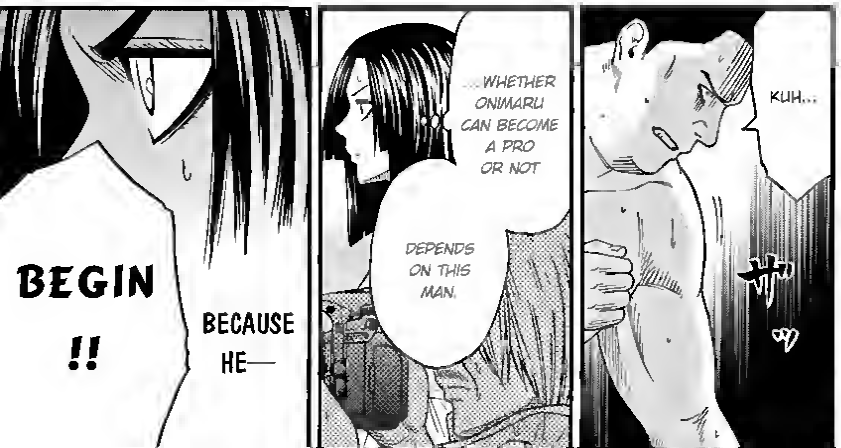
OH OH, THERE'S A TONNA PEOPLE WATCHIN' ME TODAY, MORE THAN USUAL.
MAYBE I SHOULD EXERT MYSELF AND SHOW 'EM SOMETHIN' GOOD
IN THE EASTERN CORNER, TENNOUJI-KUN!

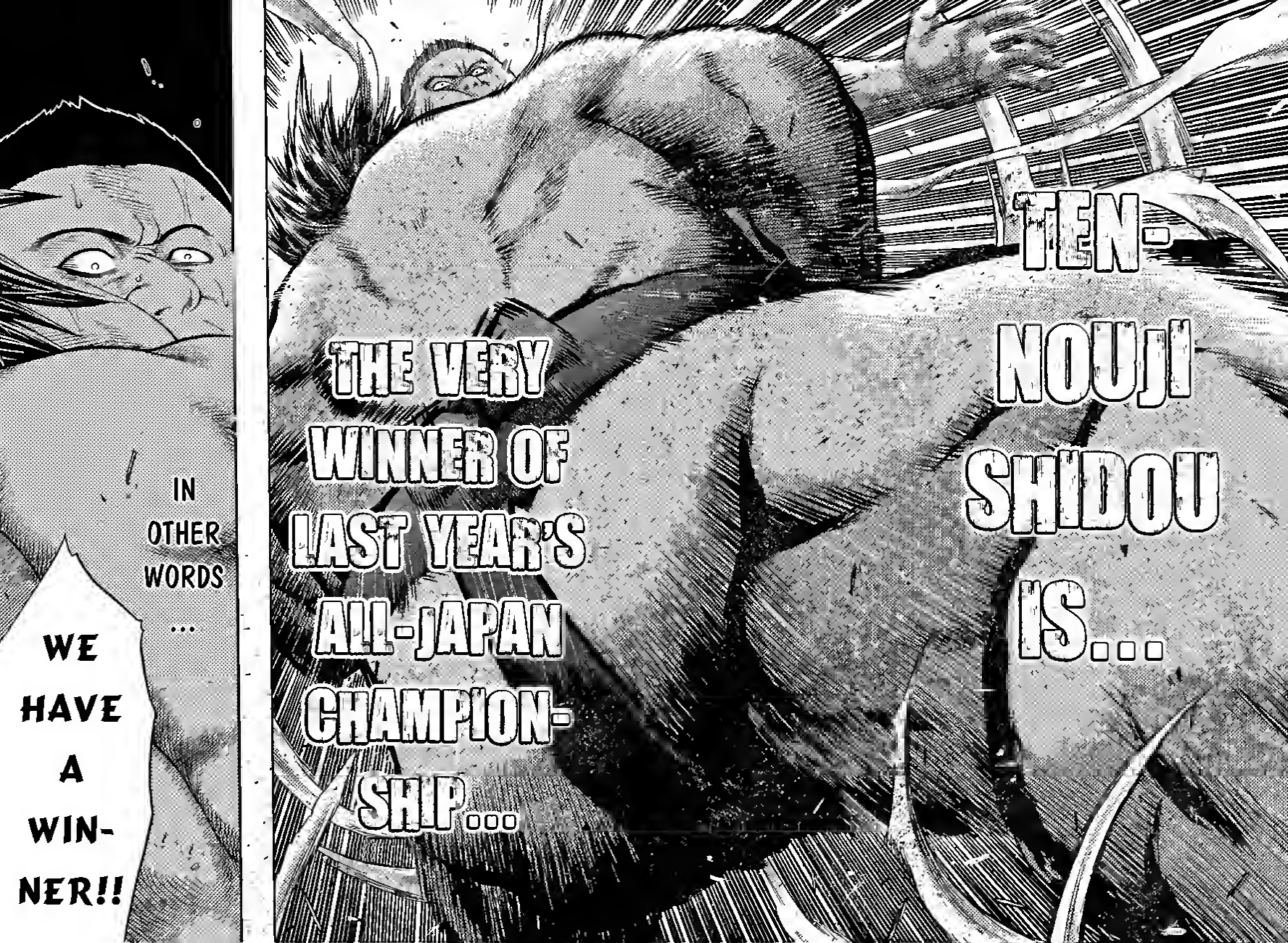

HAH...

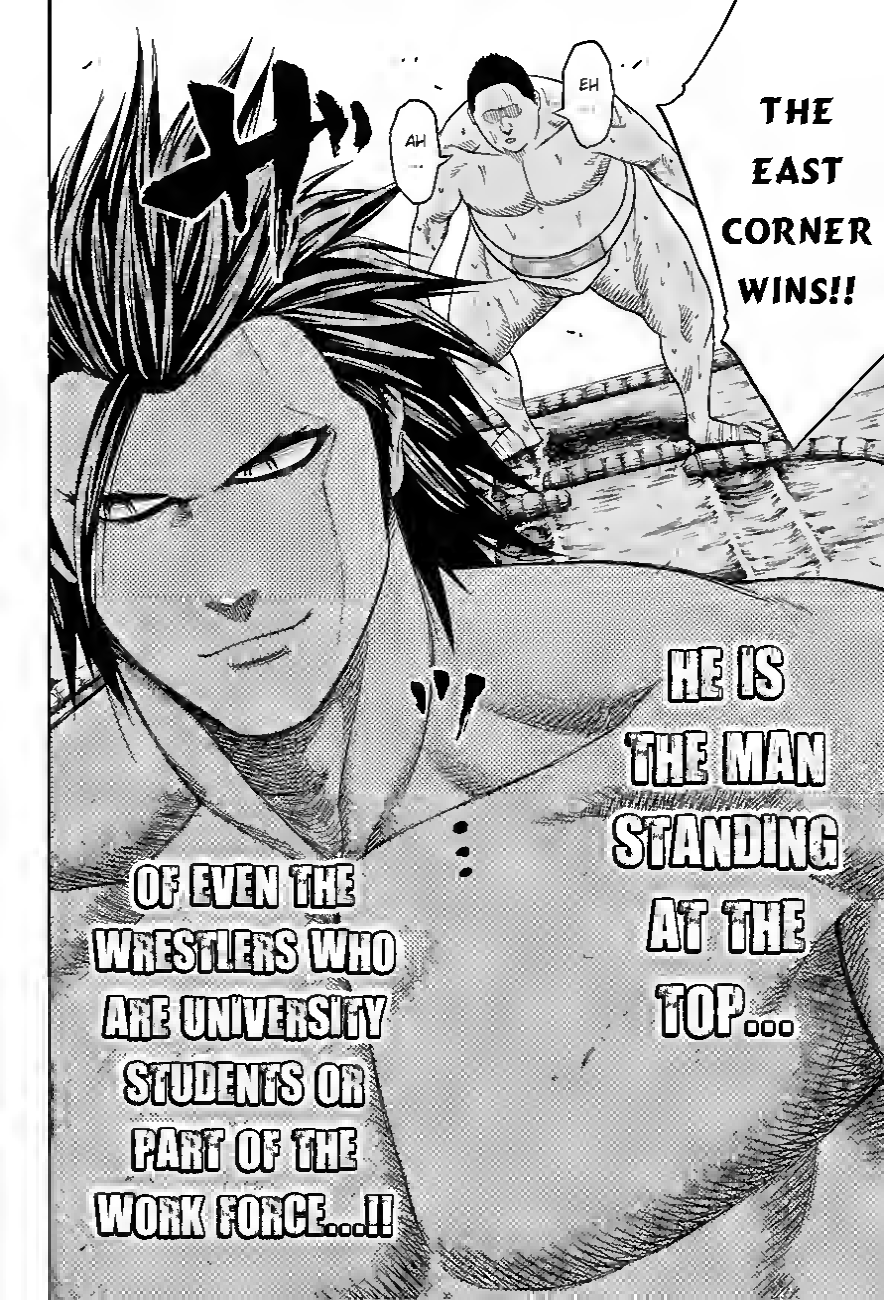
HAH
HAH

I AM THE STRONGEST
THAT DECLARATION OF WAR
HE'S FOCUSED THE ENTIRE STADIUM'S HOSTILITY TOWARDS HIMSELF, AND WHILE IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL,

HE'S OVERWHELMING THE ENTIRE STADIUM
WITH AN EVEN FIERCER AURA...


KUH...
...WHETHER ONIMARU CAN BECOME A PRO OR NOT
DEPENDS ON THIS MAN.
BECAUSE HE—
BEGIN !!


TEN-
NOUJI
SHIDOU
IS...
THE VERY
WINNER OF
LAST YEAR'S
ALL-JAPAN
CHAMPION-
SHIP...
IN
OTHER
WORDS
...
WE
HAVE
A
WIN-
NER!!


AH...
EH...
THE EAST CORNER WINS!!
HE IS THE MAN STANDING AT THE TOP...
OF EVEN THE WRESTLERS WHO ARE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS OR PART OF THE WORK FORCE...!!

... THE TALK ABOUT THE YOKOZUNA JINOU SCOUTING HIM FOR HIS OWN STABLE...
.....
TLN: BECAUSE YOKOZUNA CANNOT FALL IN RANK, THEY ARE EXPECTED TO RETIRE OF THEIR OWN ACCORD WHEN THEY START PRODUCING POOR RESULTS. IT'S A HIGHLY HONOURABLE POSITION.
HE WOULD NEVER ADMIT IT HIMSELF, BUT... I THINK THAT HE FELT SOMETHING ON AN INSTINCTUAL LEVEL,
THAT HE MUST NOT FACE TENNOUJI IN A CHAMPIONSHIP...
NO MATTER HOW STRONG A YOKOZUNA IS, THE DAY WILL COME WHEN HE WILL DECLINE A FIGHT* AND WILL HAVE TO LEAVE THE RING FOR GOOD.
I'VE COLLECTED A LOT OF DATA ON THAT..
AND JINOU-ZEKI IS NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON TO JUST SIMPLY HAND OUT COMPLIMENTS!
BUT ONIMARU ALSO...
NO... ALL OF THE PEOPLE AIMING FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP MUST BE WELL AWARE OF THAT... AND YET
... THINK YOU CAN BEAT HIM?
鳥取白楼
相撲部
TENNOUJI SHIDOU... HE MAY BE THE VERY MAN
WHO IN THE FUTURE WILL HAND THE CURRENT YOKOZUNA THEIR NOTICES OF DISMISSAL...
THIS IS THE KIND OF THING HE MAKES YOU THINK ABOUT NOW, BECAUSE HE IS SO...
STRONG...

IF I DIDN'T THINK THAT, THEN I WOULD NOT BE HERE...!
THEY HAVE COME HERE TO STAND AT THE PEAK.
WE WILL PUT AN END TO HAKUROU'S ERA!

THOSE WHO AREN'T CALLED NATIONAL TREASURES AT THE MOMENT, COULD BE NAMED TOMORROW.
THE SUCCESSIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS WERE A RECORD OF THE PAST.. THIS YEAR'S RESULTS WILL BE DECIDED FROM NOW ON.

THE GREAT HARVEST.. THE TIME TO GATHER ALL THE DETERMINATION AND TRAINING THEY'VE PILED UP UNTIL NOW.
WE WILL WIN.
THAT'S WHY WE'VE WORKED SO HARD UNTIL NOW.
TO DECIDE FROM SCRATCH WHO IS THE STRONGEST...
THAT IS THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS YEAR'S INTER-HIGH ..!

TO PRACTICE AN OPEN WEIGHT SPORT WITH LIMITATIONS LOWER THAN THOSE WOULD BE DANGEROUS.
THAT'S COMMON SENSE IN PROFESSIONAL SUMO AND WHY THOSE RULES HAVE REMAINED INTACT...
THE KINDNESS TO NOT SHOW YOU A DREAM THAT CAN NEVER COME TRUE.
... THE PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS AREN'T THERE TO MAKE FUN OF THOSE WHO DON'T QUALIFY.
HAVING SUCH A GREAT HARVEST IS INCREDIBLE.
?!...
TO THINK THAT HINOMARU HAS TO OVERCOME ALL OF THESE WALLS IN ORDER TO BECOME A PRO.
IT'S A TERRIFYING THOUGHT.
THE PROFESSIONAL SUMO WORLD ACKNOWLEDGES THERE ARE MONSTERS OUT THERE THAT DEFY COMMON SENSE.
IT'S PROOF THAT
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE'S THE TSUKEDASHI RULE THAT IGNORES YOUR PHYSIQUE.
AND COMMON SENSE ..
YOU, A MERE MIDGET, IS THE BIG SHOT THAT WILL CAUSE THEM TO QUESTION THEIR OWN RULES ..
HINOMARU IS AIMING TO BECOME THE "YOKOZUNA."
THE WALL IS HIGH? SO WHAT?

YOU WERE UNLUCKY.
.....
...I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT...
IN THIS NEXT MATCH SHOW THEM WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

SEEMINGLY HOPELESS SITUATIONS AREN'T WHAT THEY SEEM.
I HAVE COME THIS FAR TO PROVE THAT THOSE
...LUCK, HUH
EVEN IF I HAVE BAD LUCK
THAT'S FINE WITH ME

THERE ARE THINGS IN THIS WORLD THAT YOU JUST CAN'T CONTROL...
IF THEY SAY THAT I CAN'T DO IT WITH THIS BODY OF MINE, THEN I WILL PROVE IT TO THEM
THAT I WILL DEFEAT THE CURRENT KING, TENNOUJI NO MATTER WHAT.

FINAL TOURNAMENT · FIRST BOUT

USHIO HINOMARU — TENNOUJI SHIDOU

SPIRIT, TECHNIQUE AND BODY, HE WILL SHOW HIS ANSWER ON THE RING.

HINOMARU ZUMOU

ROUND 92
/ END

RAW PROVIDER
FA

REDRAWER
Deku

TRANSLATOR
Aegon

CLEANER
ManhHai090

PROOFREADER
Scruffy8642

QUALITY CHECKER
Kyou Kai

TYPESETTER
Gin

DESIGNER
Axhtz

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER:
TWITTER.COM/FAMATG090
READ FIRST AT OUR SITE TO SUPPORT US. THANK YOU!

PLEASE CONSIDER BUYING THIS MANGA TO SUPPORT THE AUTHOR WHEN IT IS AVAILABLE IN YOUR COUNTRY!

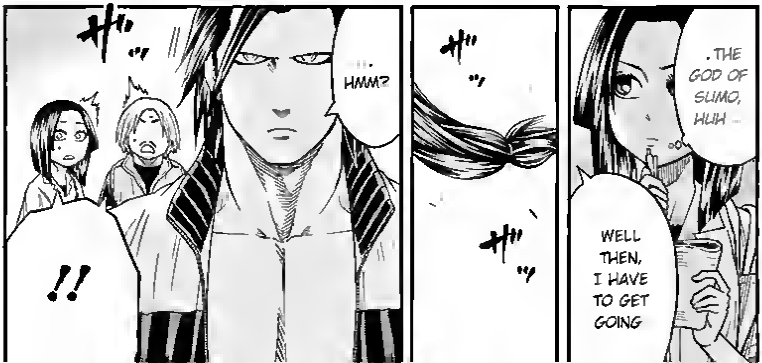
093 HINOMARU ZUMOU

BY KAWADA

HE IS STRONG
THE FACT THAT HE HAS KEPT WINNING AND MANAGED TO GET THIS FAR WITH THAT BODY OF HIS...
IS WORTHY OF RESPECT
THE FIGHT BETWEEN FELLOW NATIONAL TREASURES BEGINS!!
MY THOUGHTS ON USHIO-KUN, HUH...
火ノ丸相撲

Round 93: THE SMALL WRESTLER

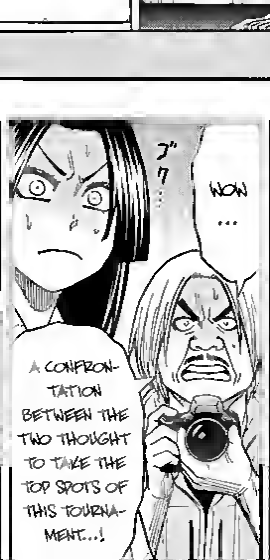
EVEN IF I'M LIKE THIS RIGHT NOW,
I USED TO BE SHORT.
MY ENTIRE FAMILY ASIDE FROM ME ARE SMALL.
SO I'M REALLY GRATEFUL TO THE GOD OF SUMO FOR THIS BODY OF MINE.
KAWADA



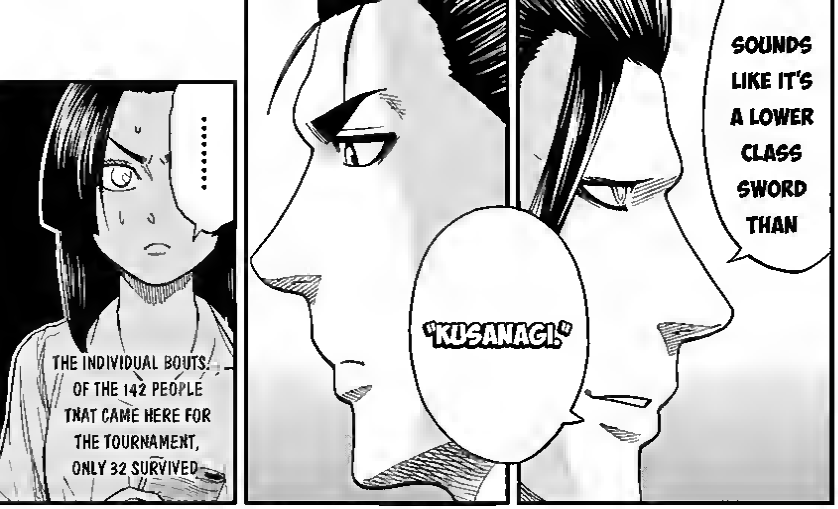
ガ
消火栓
……

"DOUJIKIRI", HUH...
……

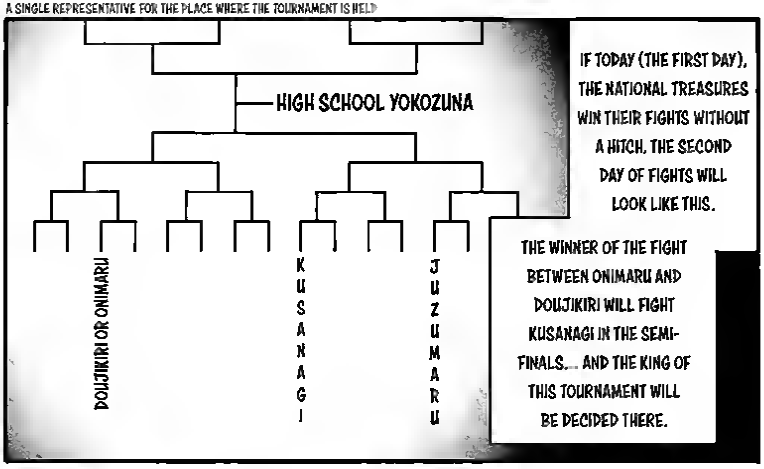
I MEAN C'MON, "DOUJIKIRI"
I DON' REALLY LIKE BEIN' REFERRED TO IN THAT WAY.


ゴク…
WOW…
A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE TWO THOUGHT TO TAKE THE TOP SPOTS OF THIS TOURNAMENT...!

……!
DOUJIKIRI..!


SOUNDS LIKE IT'S A LOWER CLASS SWORD THAN
"KUSANAGI."
.....
THE INDIVIDUAL BOUTS... OF THE 142 PEOPLE THAT CAME HERE FOR THE TOURNAMENT, ONLY 32 SURVIVED

NOTE IN THE ORIGINAL TEXT 3 REPRESENTATIVES FOR 47 PREFECTURES PLUS A SINGLE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE PLACE WHERE THE TOURNAMENT IS HELD


HIGH SCHOOL YOKOZUNA
DOUJIKIRI OR ONIMARU
KUSANAGI
JUZUMARU
IF TODAY (THE FIRST DAY), THE NATIONAL TREASURES WIN THEIR FIGHTS WITHOUT A HITCH, THE SECOND DAY OF FIGHTS WILL LOOK LIKE THIS.
THE WINNER OF THE FIGHT BETWEEN ONIMARU AND DOUJIKIRI WILL FIGHT KUSANAGI IN THE SEMI-FINALS... AND THE KING OF THIS TOURNAMENT WILL BE DECIDED THERE.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO NOT HAVE EXPECTATIONS FOR HIM...
EVEN YOUR MOVES RESEMBLE THOSE OF YOUR FATHERS QUITE CLOSELY
THE SON OF THE LAST JAPANESE YOKOZUNA, YAMATOKUNI
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT THERE ARE QUITE THE EXPECTATIONS FOR

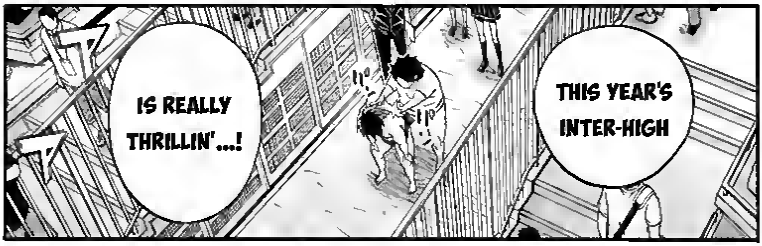
DON'CHA THINK.
"KUSANAGI?"
……
ア…
I'M LOOKIN' FORWARD TO FACING YOU IN THE SEMI-FINALS.
HEY, DOUJIKIRI-SAN...
白楼
THIS GUY'S PRETTY STUPID, SO
IF YOU'RE PICKING A FIGHT WITH HIM, YOU HAVE TO DO IT MORE DIRECTLY.
COME ON, TELL HIM WHAT YOU REALLY MEAN... JUST LIKE YOU DID DURING
YOUR LAST TV INTERVIEW...

IT SEEMS THERES BEEN A BIT OF A MISUNDERSTANDIN' HERE.. KARIYA-KUN.
I REALLY MEANT EVERYTHIN' I SAID, AND IT WASN' MY INTENTION TO PICK'A FIGHT
IT'S JUST THAT... I WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT HE UNDERSTOOD SOMETHIN' IMPORTANT.
OH WELL, JUST BY LOOKIN' INTO YOUR EYES, IT SEEMS IT WASN' NECESSARY

YOU CAN'T BRING YOUR "FATHERS" NAME OR YOUR "NATIONAL TREASURE" NAMES INTO THE RING.
ALL YOU CAN BRING IS YOUR "SELF."

I WILL STEP INTO THE RING CARRYING
THE TITLE OF "SON OF A YOKOZUNA" ON MY SHOULDERS.
TENNOUJI-SAN.

IF YOU SPEND TOO MUCH TIME THINKING SO FAR INTO THE FUTURE, THE DEMON WILL HAVE THE LAST LAUGH.
USHIO-KUN IS STRONG.


THIS YEAR'S INTER-HIGH
IS REALLY THRILLIN'...!

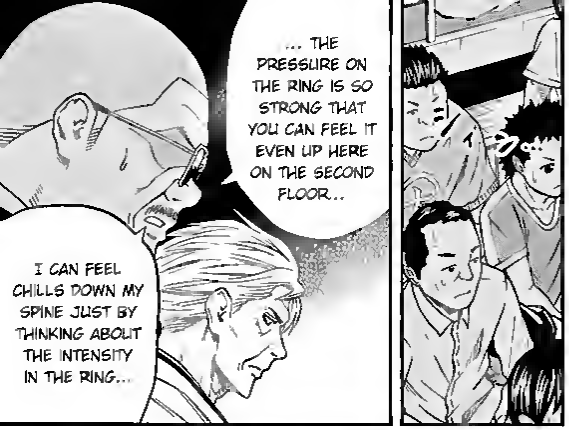
...AT THIS POINT, THERE'S NO NEED FOR ME TO SAY ANYTHING BUT.
I'M GONNA TELL YOU THIS BECAUSE I REALLY WANT TO...
SHI...!

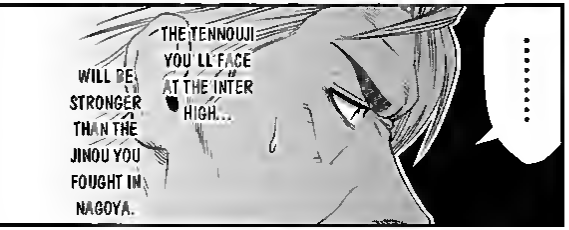
GO WIN!
BEAT BOTH TENNOUJI AND KUZE.
AND COME BACK BEARING THE TITLE OF HIGH SCHOOL YOKOZUNA!
HINO-MARU!

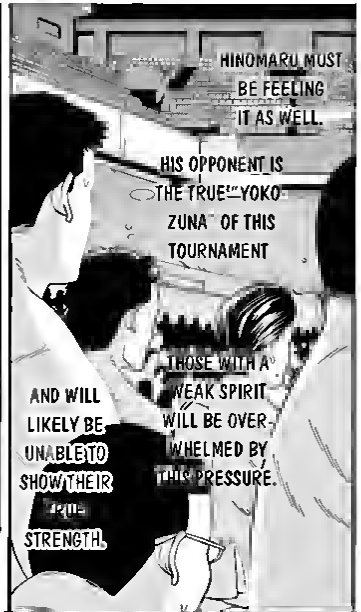
AS THE DAYS GO BY IN THE 15 DAY TOURNAMENT, YOU GRADUALLY FACE STRONGER AND STRONGER OPPONENTS...
COMES AFTER FIGHTING IN THE ORDER OF HIRAMAKU, SANYAKU AND OOZEKI RANKS.
...A BOUT WITH A YOKOZUNA IN PROFESSIONAL SUMO

IF TENNOUJI IS THE YOKOZUNA...
RIGHT NOW I AM A HIRAMAKU.
IN THE EASTERN CORNER, USHIO-KUN...

YEAH!


... THE PRESSURE ON THE RING IS SO STRONG THAT YOU CAN FEEL IT EVEN UP HERE ON THE SECOND FLOOR...
I CAN FEEL CHILLS DOWN MY SPINE JUST BY THINKING ABOUT THE INTENSITY IN THE RING...




HINOMARU MUST BE FEELING IT AS WELL.
HIS OPPONENT IS THE TRUE "YOKOZUNA" OF THIS TOURNAMENT
THOSE WITH A WEAK SPIRIT WILL BE OVERWHELMED BY THE PRESSURE.
AND WILL LIKELY BE UNABLE TO SHOW THEIR FULL STRENGTH.

*"KIN" LITERALLY "GOLD STAR." THEY ARE OBTAINED WHEN A LOWER RANKED WRESTLER DEFEATS A YOKOZUNA. IN PROFESSIONAL SUMO, EACH STAR EARNT INCREASES A WRESTLERS ANNUAL EARNINGS BY ABOUT 240,000 YEN (ABOUT $2300 USD) FOR THE REST OF THEIR CAREER.

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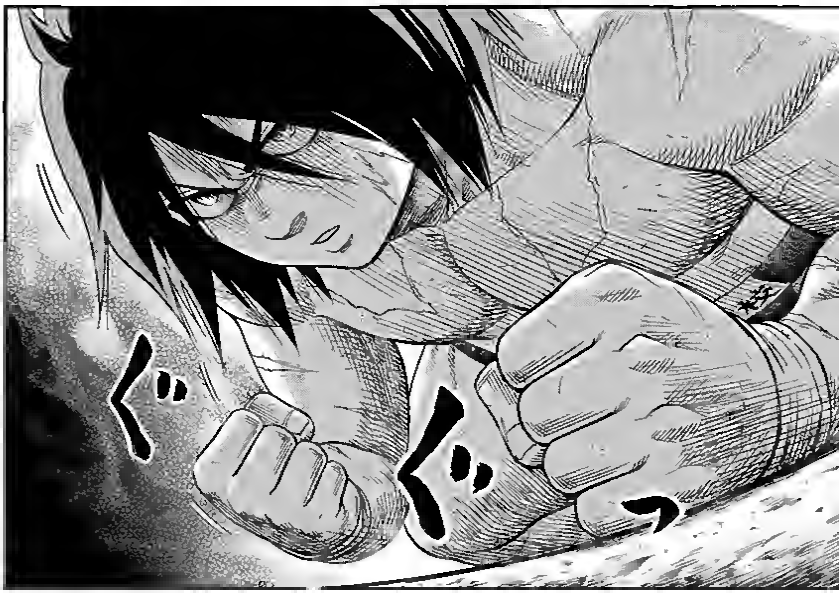
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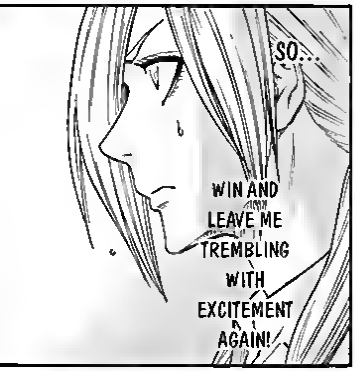
... WITH THE SELF-CONFIDENCE AND DETERMINATION YOU HAVE STRENGTHENED ALL FOR THIS MOMENT,
YOU CAN FIGHT HEAD TO HEAD AGAINST EVEN THE YOKOZUNA HIMSELF!

スゥ…


SO...
WIN AND LEAVE ME TREMBLING WITH EXCITEMENT AGAIN!

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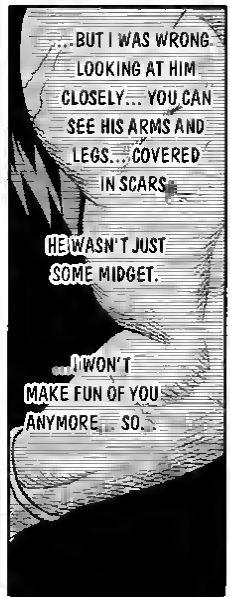
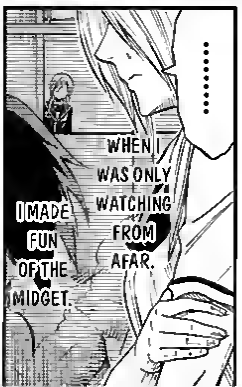
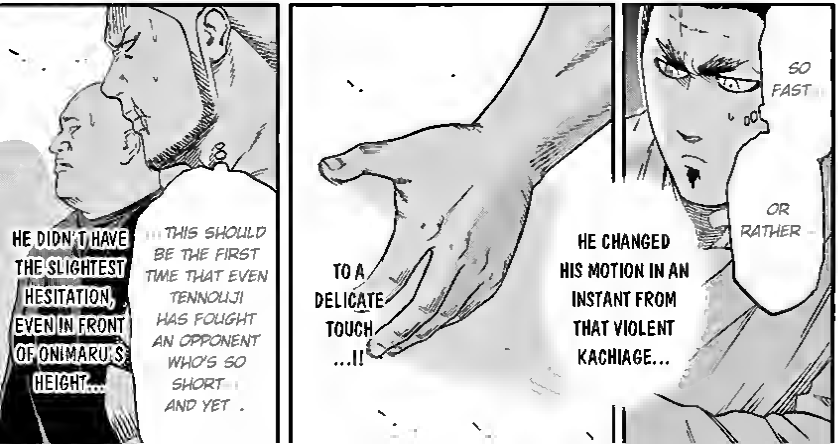

...BUT I WAS WRONG. LOOKING AT HIM CLOSELY... YOU CAN SEE HIS ARMS AND LEGS... COVERED IN SCARS.
HE WASN'T JUST SOME MIDGET.
...I WON'T MAKE FUN OF YOU ANYMORE... SO...


……
WHEN I WAS ONLY WATCHING FROM AFAR.
I MADE FUN OF THE MIDGET.

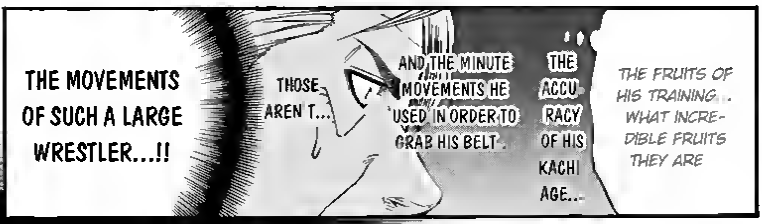
BEGIN!!
!!

HE'S PUT HIS OPPONENT UPRIGHT WITH JUST A SINGLE BLOW...!
HE HIT HINOMARU'S HEAD SO PRECISELY EVEN THOUGH HE WAS SO LOW AND FAST...
A...
KACHIAGE*
THAT'S NOT ALL!!

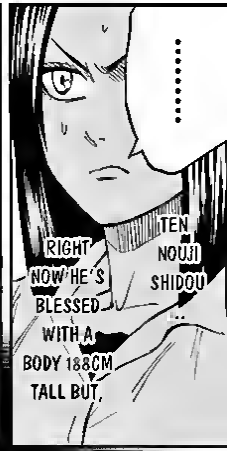
TLN-LITERALLY "UPWARD STRIKE." BASICALLY YOU CROSS YOUR ARMS AND HIT YOUR OPPONENT'S CHEST/HEAD IN THE INITIAL CHARGE. THIS PUTS THEM UPRIGHT AND OFF BALANCE.

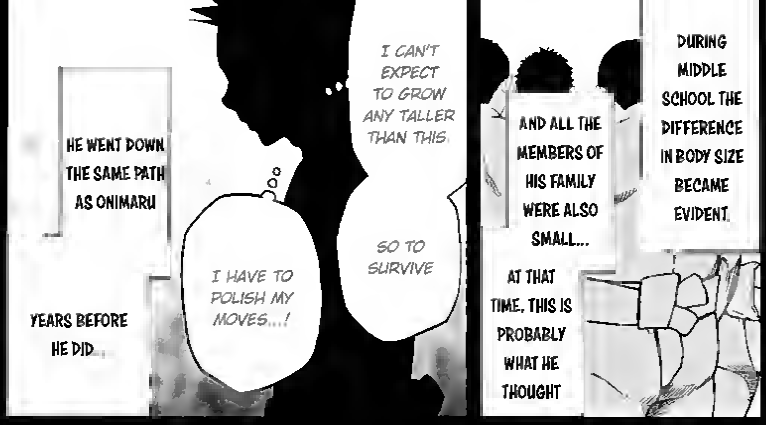

HE DIDN'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST HESITATION, EVEN IN FRONT OF ONIMARU'S HEIGHT...
THIS SHOULD BE THE FIRST TIME THAT EVEN TENNOUJI HAS FOUGHT AN OPPONENT WHO'S SO SHORT AND YET
TO A DELICATE TOUCH ...!!
HE CHANGED HIS MOTION IN AN INSTANT FROM THAT VIOLENT KACHIAGE...
SO FAST
OR RATHER

CREATED A FAVOURABLE SITUATION FOR HIMSELF...!
AS IF IT WAS NATURAL, HE INSTANTLY

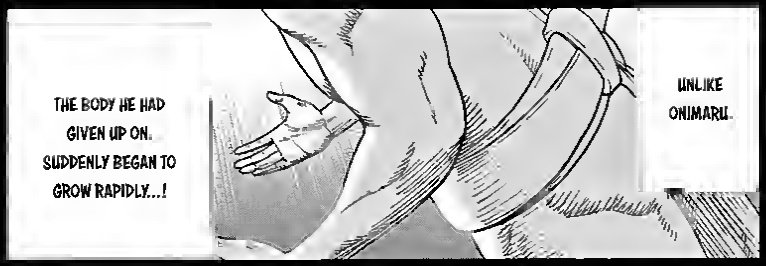

THE MOVEMENTS OF SUCH A LARGE WRESTLER...!!
THOSE AREN'T...
AND THE MINUTE MOVEMENTS HE USED IN ORDER TO GRAB HIS BELT.
THE ACCURACY OF HIS KACHIAGE...
THE FRUITS OF HIS TRAINING... WHAT INCREDIBLE FRUITS THEY ARE

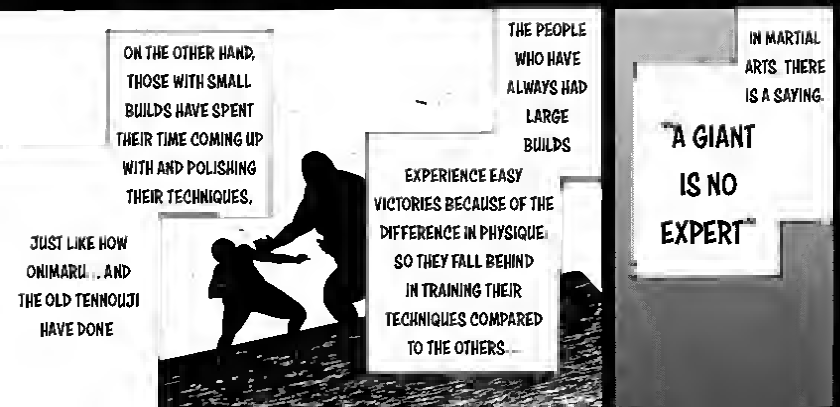
DURING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
YOU COULD BY NO MEANS CALL HIM BIG
JUST LIKE ONIMARU...
大阪


.....
TEN NOUJI SHIDOU...
RIGHT NOW HE'S BLESSED WITH A BODY 188CM TALL BUT,


HE WENT DOWN THE SAME PATH AS ONIMARU
YEARS BEFORE HE DID...
I HAVE TO POLISH MY MOVES...!
I CAN'T EXPECT TO GROW ANY TALLER THAN THIS.
SO TO SURVIVE
DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL THE DIFFERENCE IN BODY SIZE BECAME EVIDENT.
AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY WERE ALSO SMALL...
AT THAT TIME, THIS IS PROBABLY WHAT HE THOUGHT

BUT HE WAS GUIDED TO A DIFFERENT DESTINATION




ON THE OTHER HAND, THOSE WITH SMALL BUILDS HAVE SPENT THEIR TIME COMING UP WITH AND POLISHING THEIR TECHNIQUES.
JUST LIKE HOW ONIMARU... AND THE OLD TENNOUJI HAVE DONE
THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALWAYS HAD LARGE BUILDS
EXPERIENCE EASY VICTORIES BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENCE IN PHYSIQUE. SO THEY FALL BEHIND IN TRAINING THEIR TECHNIQUES COMPARED TO THE OTHERS...
IN MARTIAL ARTS THERE IS A SAYING.
"A GIANT IS NO EXPERT"

THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YOKOZUNA...
THE GLORY THAT ONIMARU COULD NEVER OBTAIN
WHEN TENNOUJI WAS STANDING ON THAT SEAT IN ALL HIS GLORY.
HE ALREADY POSSESSED BOTH A SMALL WRESTLER'S ABILITY TO USE "TECHNIQUES" TO OUTSMART HIS OPPONENTS AND
THE PRESSURE THAT CAME FROM HAVING A LARGE WRESTLERS "BODY."
AND SO HE BECAME A MONSTER...
TENNOUJI SHIDOU WAS SHORT.
BUT NOW THAT'S A STORY OF THE PAST
"THE GOD OF SUMO"
PAVED THE WAY FOR HIM TO GROW INTO THE STRONGEST WRESTLER.
...THAT GOD IS TELLING HIM...
TELLING TENNOUJI SHIDOU...
SO I'M REALLY GRATEFUL TO THE GOD OF SUMO FOR THIS BODY OF MINE

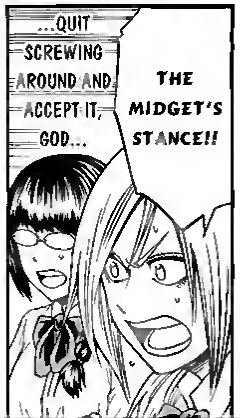
"TO FIGHT AS A WRES-TLER."
"GIVE UP"
...I CAN STILL HEAR THOSE WORDS...
BACK WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL... AND WHEN I FOUGHT KUSANAGI TOO... DID I MEET TENNOUJI IN MY FIRST BATTLE FOR THE SAME PURPOSE?
WHAT TRIALS WILL YOU IMPOSE ON ME NEXT...?
GREAT GOD OF SUMO ...?

TLN: LITERALLY "FRONTAL DISPOSAL" IT INVOLVES KNOCKING AWAY THE OPPONENTS HANDS TO ESCAPE THEIR GRASP.
HIS MAESA-BAKI* SKILLS...!!

I DON'T NEED YOU
WATCHING OVER ME!!!

BECAUSE HE WAS ALWAYS SMALLER THAN EVERYBODY.
HE CONTINUED TO CULTIVATE.
...ONIMARU'S NOT DANGEROUS BECAUSE OF
HIS SPEED OR GREAT POWER COMPARED TO HIS SMALL SIZE.
IT'S HIS TECHNIQUES TO GET CLOSE TO...
AND GRAB THE BELT

HE WILL WIN... WITH THIS BODY!!
YOU CAN NEVER TAKE SUMO AWAY FROM ME!!
HINOMARU ZUMOU
...ROUND 93 / END


...QUIT SCREWING AROUND AND ACCEPT IT, GOD...
THE MIDGET'S STANCE!!

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BY KAWADA

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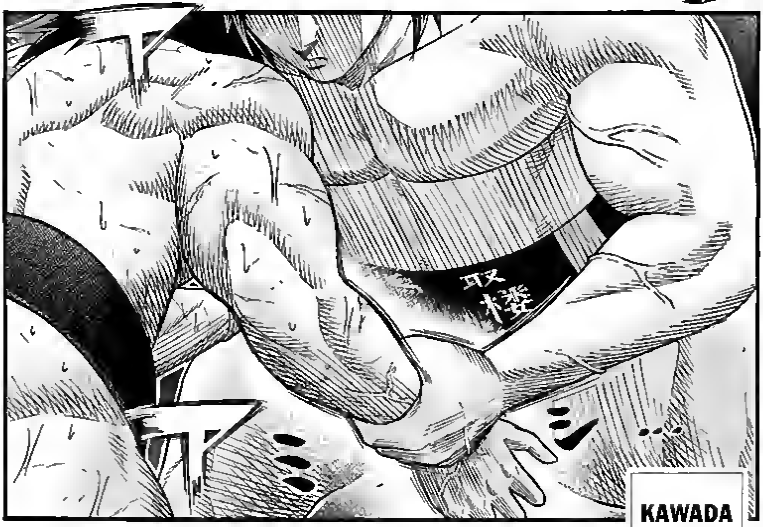
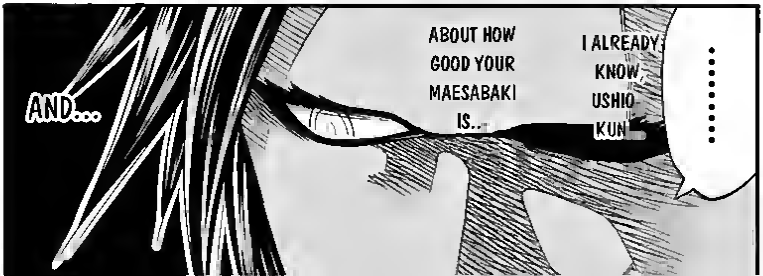


Round 94: **ONIMARU KUNITSUNA VS DOUJIKIRI YASUTSUNA**



AS LONG AS YOUR RIGHT DOESN' CONNECT, YOUR ATTACK POWER'LL BE HALVED.
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN WHATCHA DO WITH YOUR LEFT HAND...
THAT THE CORNERSTONE OF YOUR OFFENSE IS AN UNDERARM GRIP WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND...
UGHH...
A LEFT ARM THROW!
HE'S BEING TOO FORCEFUL!
ORAAH !!
...HUH
YOU'LL CREATE AN OPENIN' WITH THIS THROW N THEN MAKE USE OF YOUR RIGHT ARM

CHH
...
THEN
I'VE ALREADY FULLY STUDIED
THAT COMBO.
カリ
ロリ
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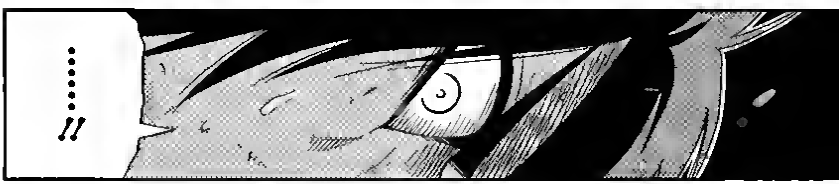
ル
ッ
GO AHEAD
....
A SUDDEN BODY TWIST
FOLLOWED BY A THROAT THRUST

I ALREADY KNOW
THAT COMBO AS WELL.


……!!

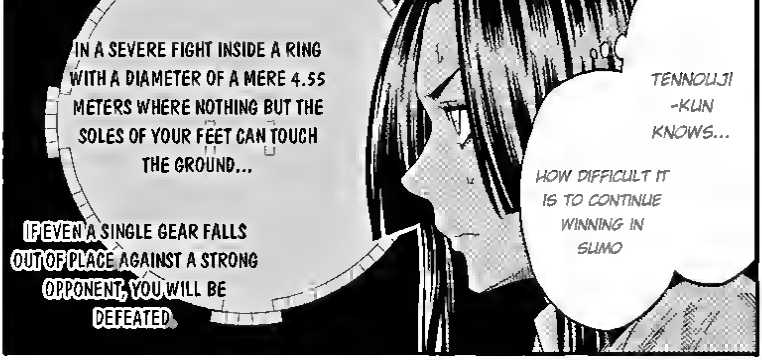
HE'S NOT REACTING AFTER SEEING THE MOVEMENTS...
HE'S PREDICTING HOW HINOMARU WILL MOVE!!
HE'S DONE HIS FAIR SHARE OF RESEARCH ON HINOMARU...!
HE MAY BE A FIRST YEAR, BUT HINOMARU IS STILL A NATIONAL TREASURE... IT LOOKS LIKE TENNOUJI WON'T GIVE US THE LUXURY OF LOWERING HIS GUARD

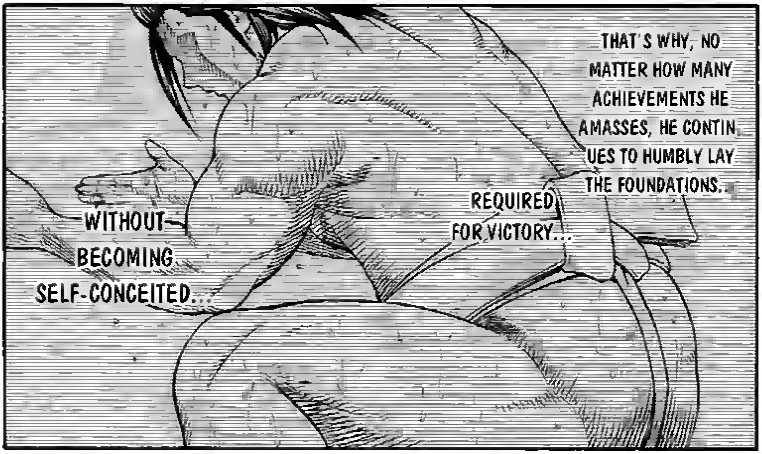
... IT WASN' JUST USHIO -KUN,
HE DID THE SAME FOR EVERYONE.
CHIBA PREFECTURE, SECOND PLACE, KANAMORI TSUYOSHI.
MY BROTHER THOROUGHLY STUDIES THE SUMO OF ALL'A HIS POTENTIAL OPPONENTS...
WHEN GRAPPLIN' WITH HIM, HIS WEIGHT GIVES HIM AN ADVANTAGE, BUT HE SHOULDN' BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH A QUICK ASSAULT
CHIBA PREFECTURE, THIRD PLACE, OOKOUCHI MANABU
IF YOU GET CAUGHT BY HIS MOROZASHI* HE'S DANGEROUS, BUT HIS STANCE IS PRETTY UNSTABLE SO HE'S FULL'A OPENINGS WHEN HE COMES TO ATTACK
TLN: A DOUBLE UNDERARM GRIP WHICH PREVENTS THE OPPONENT FROM GRABBING THE BELT.
... AND,
IT'S NOT LIKE THE ONLY ONES CAPABLE OF DEFEATIN A YOKOZUNA ARE OOZEKI OR OTHER YOKOZUNA
!
YOU SPEND EVERY SECOND OF YOUR SPARE TIME STUDYIN' DONCHA?
HAHAH I ENJOY IT.
IT'S FUN LOOKIN AT EVERYONE'S DIFFERENT STYLES.

I DON' WANNA LOSE,
NOT TO ANYONE.
NOT EVEN TO THE ONE IN A MILLION.

EVERYONE IS MY RIVAL.
HE ACTUALLY MEANT EVERYONE...!?
HIS DECLARATION IN THAT INTERVIEW WASN'T JUST HIM BEING MODEST...

KARIYA-KUN.
...TENNOUJI KNEW ABOUT ME AS WELL...
EVEN THOUGH I FAILED TO EARN MY TICKET TO THE NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL DIVISION MATCHES.

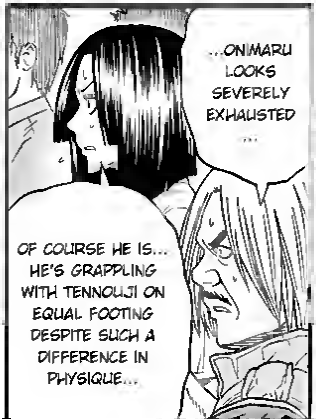

IN A SEVERE FIGHT INSIDE A RING WITH A DIAMETER OF A MERE 4.55 METERS WHERE NOTHING BUT THE SOLES OF YOUR FEET CAN TOUCH THE GROUND...
IF EVEN A SINGLE GEAR FALLS OUT OF PLACE AGAINST A STRONG OPPONENT, YOU WILL BE DEFEATED.
TENNOUJI -KUN KNOWS...
HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO CONTINUE WINNING IN SUMO


THAT'S WHY, NO MATTER HOW MANY ACHIEVEMENTS HE AMASSES, HE CONTINUES TO HUMBLY LAY THE FOUNDATIONS.
REQUIRED FOR VICTORY...
—WITHOUT— BECOMING SELF-CONCEITED...

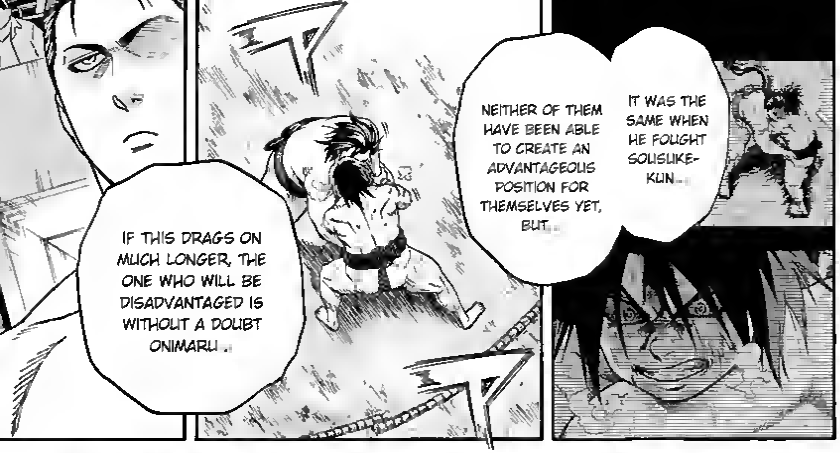
.THIS MAN CALLED TENNOUJI
COULD BE QUITE A LOT MORE FRIGHTENING THAN I THOUGHT—
THAT INTERVIEW...
I THOUGHT THAT THE DECLARATION OF WAR CAME FROM HIS COMPETITIVE SPIRIT... AND THAT HE WAS AN INCREDIBLE GUY...
AND THE RESULT OF THAT IS HIS PERFECT HIGHSCHOOL CAREER WITH NO LOSSES.

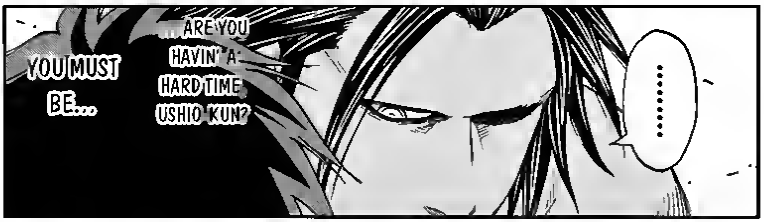
HIS EXCLAMATION "I AM THE STRONGEST..."
THAT'S WHY
I AM THE STRONGEST.
BUT I WAS WRONG... THE MOST FRIGHTENING THING ABOUT HIM IS THAT
WAS SIMPLY HIM STATING THE TRUTH...!!

HAA
HAA


...ONIMARU LOOKS SEVERELY EXHAUSTED ...
OF COURSE HE IS... HE'S GRAPPLING WITH TENNOUJI ON EQUAL FOOTING DESPITE SUCH A DIFFERENCE IN PHYSIQUE...

SOME MAY MISTAKE THIS DECLARATION FOR ARROGANCE... BUT IN HIS CASE
HE IS THE ONE WHO STUDIES HIS RIVALS MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE... TO FIND HIS OWN FAULTS...
AND AS RESULT HE IS UNDEFEATED...


IF THIS DRAGS ON MUCH LONGER, THE ONE WHO WILL BE DISADVANTAGED IS WITHOUT A DOUBT ONIMARU...
NEITHER OF THEM HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CREATE AN ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION FOR THEMSELVES YET, BUT...
IT WAS THE SAME WHEN HE FOUGHT SOUSUKE-KUN...


YOU MUST BE...
...ARE YOU HAVIN' A HARD TIME USHIO-KUN?
.....

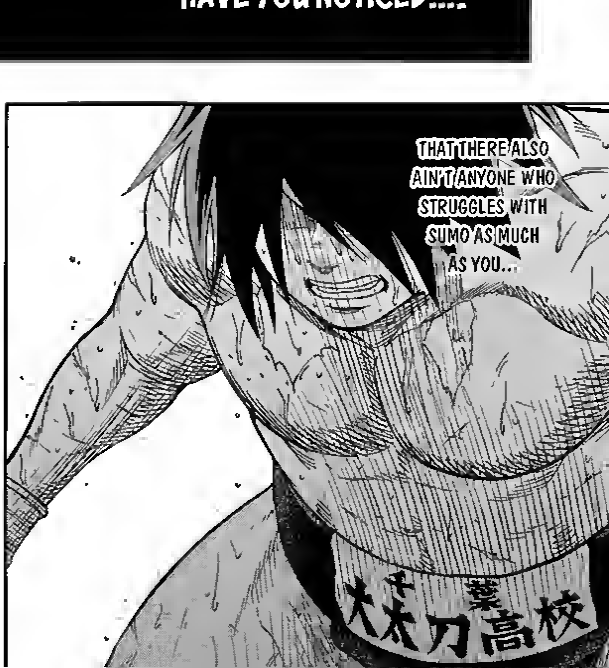
POOR THING
...

... IT'S A FACT THAT YOU'RE STRONG...
THERE AIN'T NO ONE OF YOUR STATURE WHO'S SO STRONG...
EVEN IF YOU LOOK AT A NATIONAL LEVEL
SO STRONG THAT IT'S ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE GIVEN YOUR BODY!!

BUT USHIO-KUN...

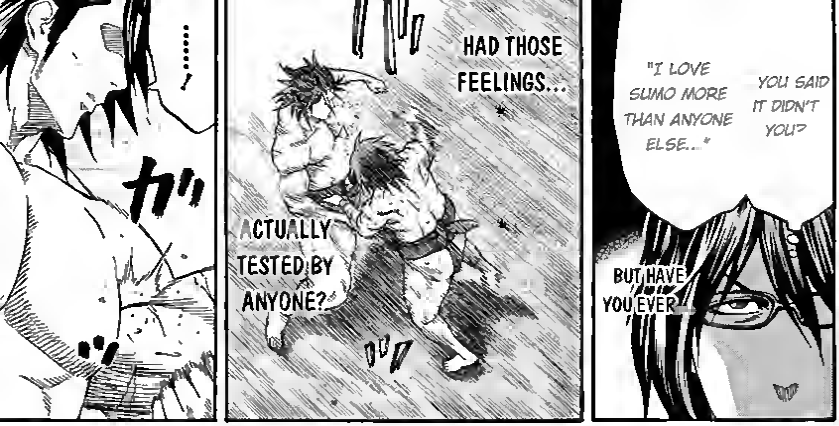
HAVE YOU NOTICED...?

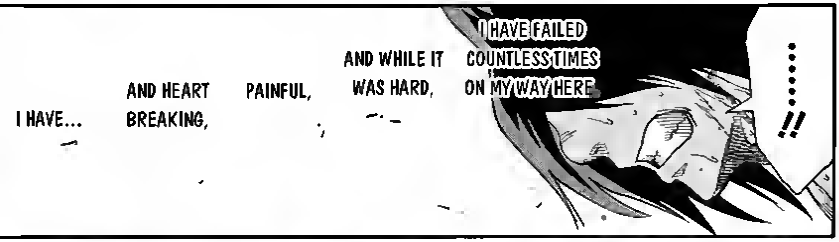
IT'S TIME TO PUT AN END TO IT...



YOUR SUMO'S SO PATHETIC TO LOOK AT
THAT I CANNOT BEAR IT ANY LONGER...
TENNOUJI -SAN
... YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND
HINOMARU AT ALL.

WHA-!?

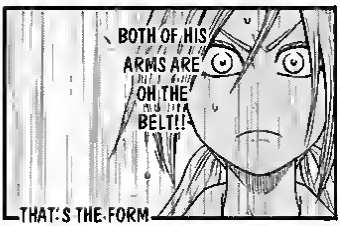

"I LOVE SUMO MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE..."
YOU SAID IT DIDN'T YOU?
BUT, HAVE YOU EVER
HAD THOSE FEELINGS...
ACTUALLY TESTED BY ANYONE?
カッ
.....!


I HAVE FAILED COUNTLESS TIMES ON MY WAY HERE
AND WHILE IT WAS HARD,
PAINFUL,
AND HEART BREAKING,
I HAVE...
.....!!

IT WASN'T ALL FUN AND GAMES... BUT THAT'S WHY I BELIEVE THIS SO FIRMLY...
TENNOUJI...
I...
NEVER ONCE THOUGHT THAT...
SUMO WAS BORING!!!

……!
ONIMARU…!
HYAK-
KINAGI
HAKEI*
COMBINING A SUKUINAGE* AND A TWISTING THROW
LOVE SUMO MORE THAN YOU!!
TL.N: 100 DEMON THROW - FORM BREAKER.
TL.N. A THROW-HOLDING AN OPPONENTS ARM, NOT THE BELT

YOUR BACK IS RADIATING ...


BOTH OF HIS ARMS ARE ON THE BELT!!
THAT'S THE FORM

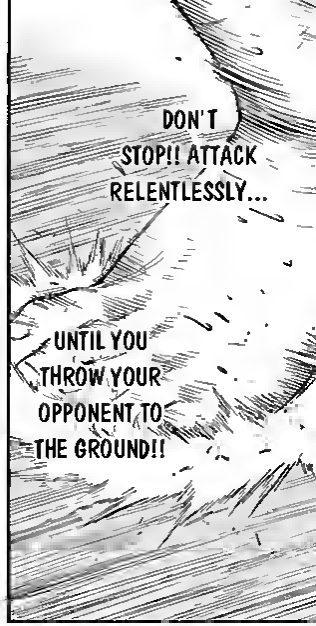
FOR THE HYAKUSEN YASHA OTOSHI!!

取桜
鳥白
...

ヒュ
YOU WERE OVERLY CAUTIOUS, TENNOUJI...
NOW THAT ONIMARU IS IN THAT POSITION
HE WILL BE QUITE TROUBLESOME TO DEAL WITH !!
I HAVE TO BOW MY HEAD TO YOU FOR YOUR DILIGENCE, WHICH IS UNEXPECTED FROM SOMEONE STANDING AT THE TOP,
BUT.
YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HIS FEELINGS...!!!
HINOMARU...
IS A GUY WHO WAS RAISED IN THE DEPTHS OF HELL THAT EVEN YOU DON'T KNOW OF!!
FOR A FINISHING MOVE, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS HOW YOU BREAK YOUR OPPONENT'S STANCE BEFORE EXECUTING IT...
THERE ARE AN INFINITE AMOUNT OF PATHS THAT WILL LEAD YOU TO THE...
HYAKUSEN YASHA OTOSHI ...!!!

WITH HIS INNUMEROUS BLADES,
WILL TOPPLE THE HEAVENS*
THE DEMON FROM HELL
CRUSH THE KING AND GRASP THE BRILLIANCE OF VICTORY!!

THE FINAL CLASH TO DECIDE THE WINNER BEGINS! THE FIRST TO MAKE A MOVE IS... ONIMARU!



TLN: THE "TEN" IN TENNOUJI IS THE KANJI FOR "HEAVENS" IN JAPANESE.

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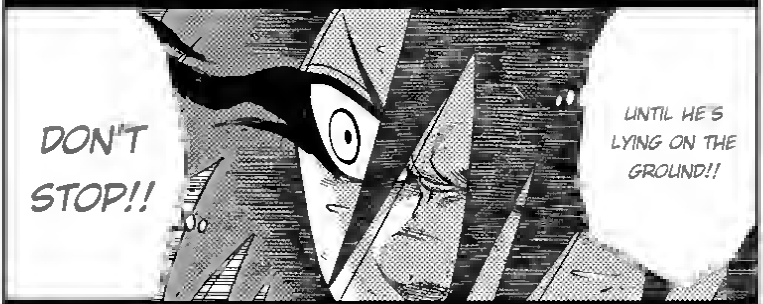
BY KAWADA

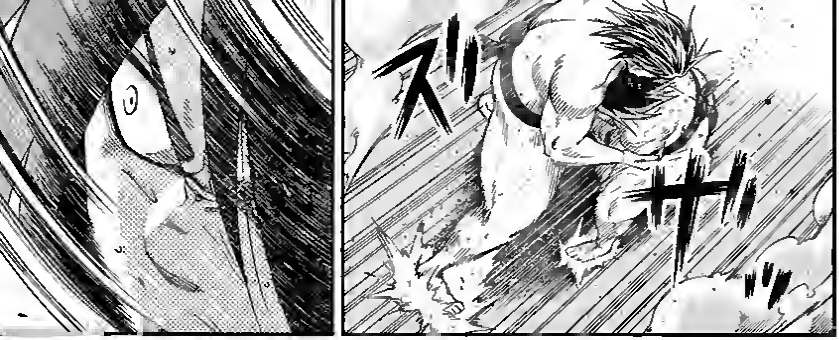
FOR A FINISHING MOVE, THE MOST IMPORTANT PART IS HOW YOU BREAK YOUR OPPONENT'S STANCE BEFORE EXECUTING IT...

IF YOU CAN PUT YOUR OPPONENT OFF BALANCE, EVEN IF THEY KNOW WHAT'S COMING NEXT...



THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO AVOID IT!

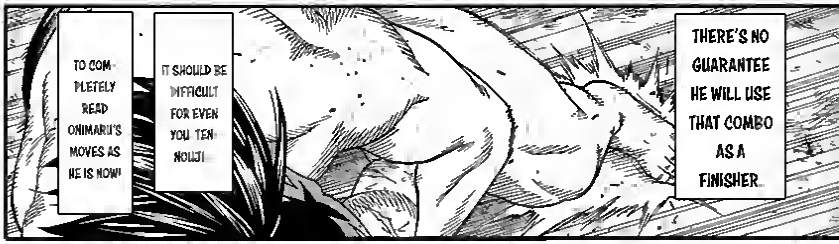
*T/N. DEMON STORM-DOUBLE HANDED



!!

NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A SUMO NERD TENNOUJI IS WITH HIS STUDYING HABITS...
THERE'S NO FOOTAGE OF ONIMARU SHOWING OFF THESE MOVES, SO IT SHOULD BE TAKING EVEN HIM BY SURPRISE.
HE'S SWINGING HIM LEFT AND RIGHT
IT'S THE SAME COMBO HE USED ON ME IN NAGOYA
HE CHANGED DIRECTIONS!!

IF THIS WERE THE OLD ONIMARU, FOLLOWING THIS UP WITH THE TRIPLE COMBO MOVE WOULD HAVE BEEN HIS ONLY OPTION
EVEN IF HE'S STRONG IF HE'S A ONE HIT WONDER THEN THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF
BUT ONIMARU HAS CHANGED ....
NOW HE'LL USE THE TRIPLE COMBO MOVE AS BAIT TO BREAK YOUR BALANCE.


TO COMPLETELY READ ONIMARU'S MOVES AS HE IS NOW!
IT SHOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR EVEN YOU, TENNOUJI.
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE HE WILL USE THAT COMBO AS A FINISHER.

THE BEST WAY TO FACE AN OPPONENT WHO MEMORIZES YOUR EVERY ATTACK PATTERN....
IS WHEN YOU ARE CLOSE TO OPTIMUM CONDITION AND BEFORE YOU HAVE TO REVEAL YOUR TRICKS.
THE THROW THAT DEFEATED A SEKITORI AT FIRST SIGHT....
HE HAS CONTINUED TO POLISH IT SINCE NAGOYA...

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT
MAYBE IT'S LUCKY HE HAD TO FIGHT TENNOUJI SO EARLY IN THE TOURNAMENT

AT THE TRAINING GROUNDS, EVEN I SUFFERED MULTIPLE DEFEATS AT HIS HAND.
AS USHIO-KUN IS NOW...
IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR EVEN A PRO TO DEFEAT HIM.
TENNOUJI GRABBED HIS BELT TOO!
HE'S PLANNING TO STOP HIM THROUGH BRUTE FORCE!!
ガシ

ORAAAH!!

LIKE IT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER!!
HE'S SWINGING TENNOUJI AROUND

IN FACT, TENNOUJI S ARMS WILL BE CAUGHT IN THE ROTATIONS AS WELL, INCREASING THEIR EFFECTS
YOU CAN T STOP HINOMARU S ROTA TIONS WITH ARM STRENGTH ALONE!!
GO FOR IT!
.....!
AND TOTALLY OVERWHELMING NIM !!
HINO-MARU!!
FINISH IT!!
IS HE GOING DOWN !?

HYAKKI
NAGI

T-...
TENNOUJI TURNED THE TABLES!?
HE COPIED ONIMARU'S HYAKKI NAGI...!!
HE'S TALLER THAN ONIMARU, SO THE FORM WOULD BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT...
IT'S POWER'S ON A ANOTHER LEVEL!!
WHAT INCREDIBLE TIMING...
WHILE ENDURING HINOMARU'S CONSECUTIVE ATTACKS...
HE FOUND AN OPENING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF...!
A THROW TO COUNTER A THROW...
THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL A KING'S PRIDE...!!
.....
SO THIS IS YOUR NEW SUMO, HUH...
TO COME FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL AND GET THIS FAR IN 3 YEARS...
MEANS YOU HAD MORE THAN JUST PAINFUL EXPERIENCES...
GEEZ, I STILL HAVE A LOT TO LEARN ABOUT SUMO AND THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE...

NOT YET.

HE'S NOT GOING DOWN YET!!!

YOUR STRENGTH...

YOU WERE SO SMALL
BUT INCRED-IBLY STRONG...!!

EVERYONE AROUND ME GRADUALLY GREW BIGGER AND BIGGER...
AND EVEN IF I COULDN'T WIN ANY MORE...
AS LONG AS I SAW HOW YOU FOUGHT BACK THEN...
I COULD REASSURE MYSELF...
BUT THAT WASN'T ALL
ALL SO THAT I COULD MAKE THOSE MOVES... THAT SUMO... MY OWN... IN ORDER TO SURPASS YOU...
I WATCHED VIDEOS OF YOUR MATCHES COUNTLESS TIMES...
DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL...
SO MUCH THAT THEY EVEN APPEARED IN MY DREAMS...
IT WAS POSSIBLE TO WIN
THAT EVEN IF I WAS SMALL...

THAT YOU CONTINUED TO SHINE AT THE TOP ALL THIS TIME...
YOU MAY HAVE EVENTUALLY GOTTEN BIGGER...
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU...
BUT THAT DIDN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT YOU WERE STILL MY GOAL...

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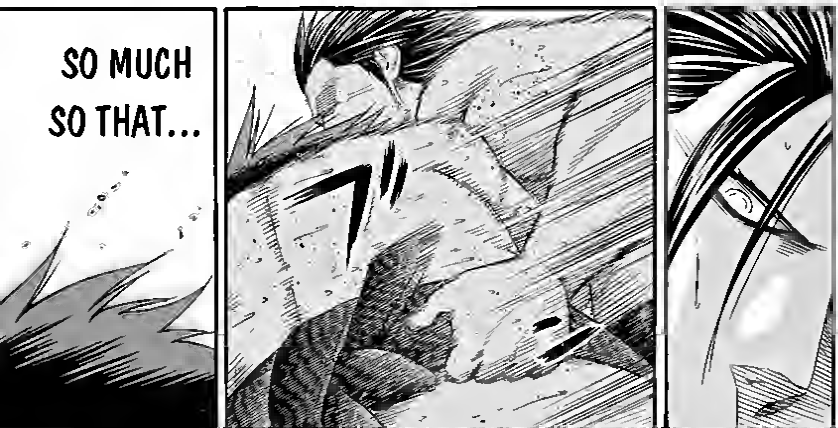
SO
STRONG...


SO MUCH
SO THAT...

HE USED A PUSH !!?
AT A TIME LIKE THIS ...?

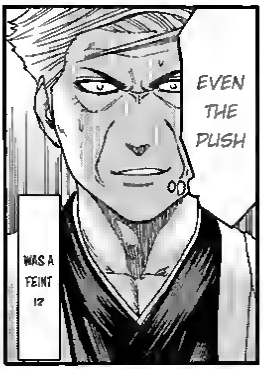
HE CAUGHT HIM... NO, EVERYONE HERE...
HE MADE TENNOUJI THINK THAT HE WAS GOING TO THROW...

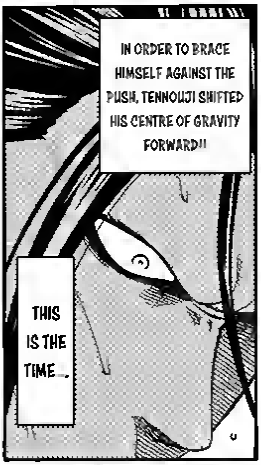
OFF GUARD !!
IN ORDER TO...
THAT IS THE METHOD I CHOSE AFTER WATCHING YOU FOR SO MANY YEARS
TO TAKE YOU BY SURPRISE AND STOP YOUR MOMENTUM ONCE WE BEGAN GRAPPLING EACH OTHER

I WANT TO DEFEAT YOU !!!
高校

CRUSH
YOUR
BALANCE
...
千葉
大太刀高校

HYAKU-SEN YASHA OTOSHI ...





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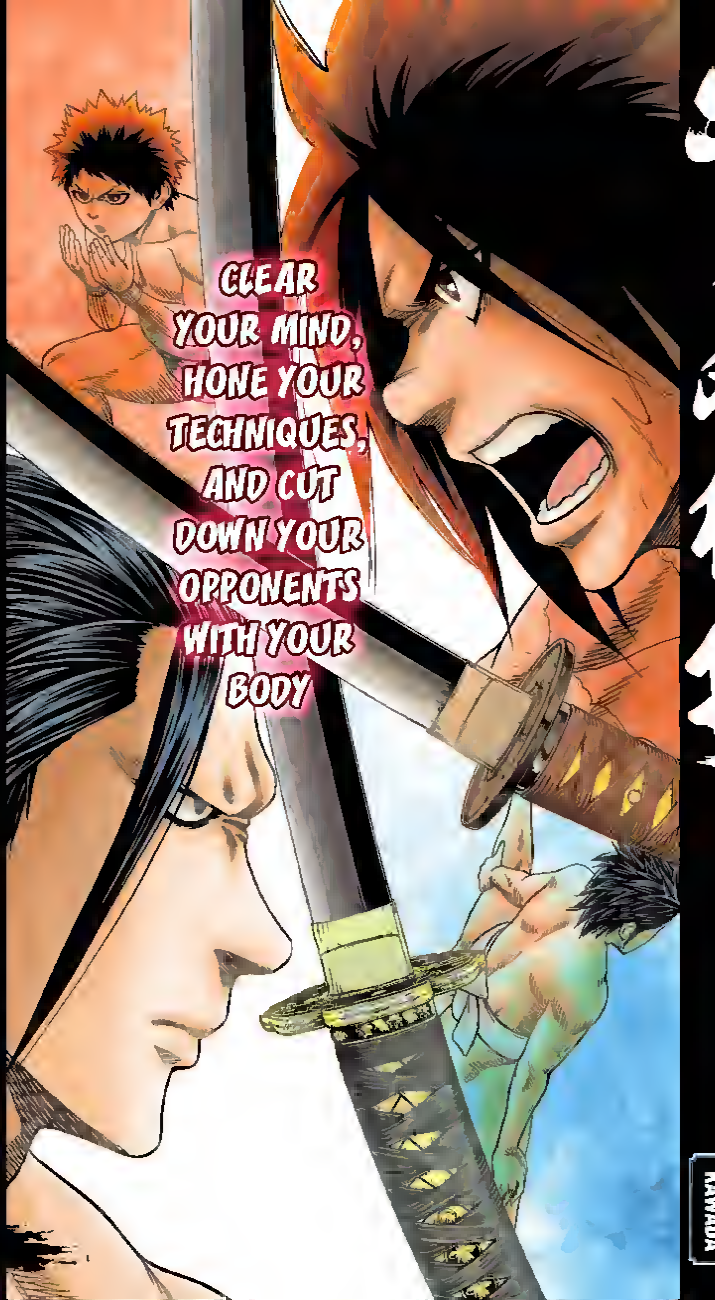
火ノ丸相撲
CLEAR YOUR MIND, HONE YOUR TECHNIQUES, AND CUT DOWN YOUR OPPONENTS WITH YOUR BODY
KAWADA

「火ノ丸相撲」と日本相撲協会公認キャラクター
「ハッキヨイ！せきトリくん」の
コラボグッズが出るってホントですかぁ？

デマス。

火ノ丸相撲×ハッキヨイ！せきトリくん

日本相撲協会公式キャラクター

相撲のあれやこれ解説!!
火ノ丸相撲 解説の席 特別編
©(公財)日本相撲協会

火ノ丸達のイラストは川田先生
完全描き下ろし!!

集英社の公式グッズサイト「ジャンプキャラクターズストア」で絶賛販売中！ http://jumpcs.shueisha.co.jp/

大相撲5月場所の国技館内「ハッキヨイ！せきトリくん」売店でも発売中!!

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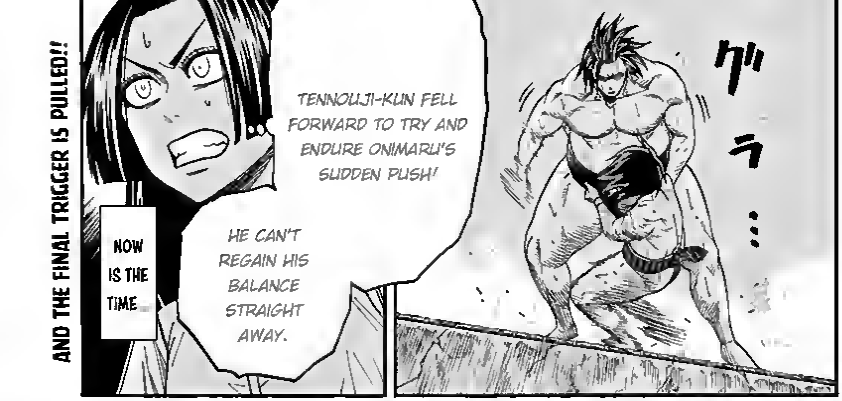
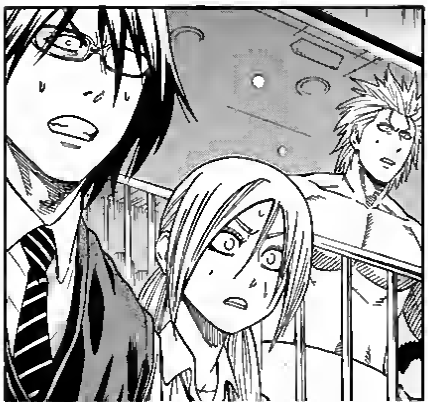
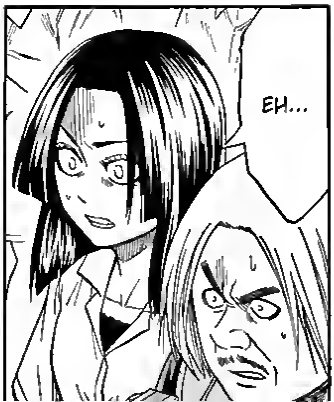

AND THE FINAL TRIGGER IS PULLED!!
NOW IS THE TIME...
HE CAN'T REGAIN HIS BALANCE STRAIGHT AWAY.
TENNOUJI-KUN FELL FORWARD TO TRY AND ENDURE ONIMARU'S SUDDEN PUSH!
グラ…

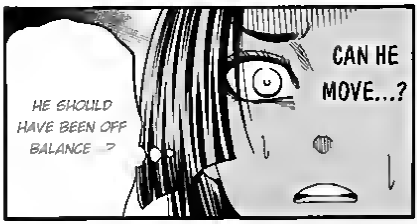
Round 96: ONIMARU KUNITSUNA VS DOUJIKIRI YASUTSUNA 3

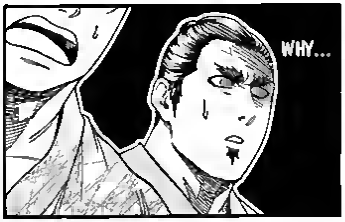
ガッ
OP?

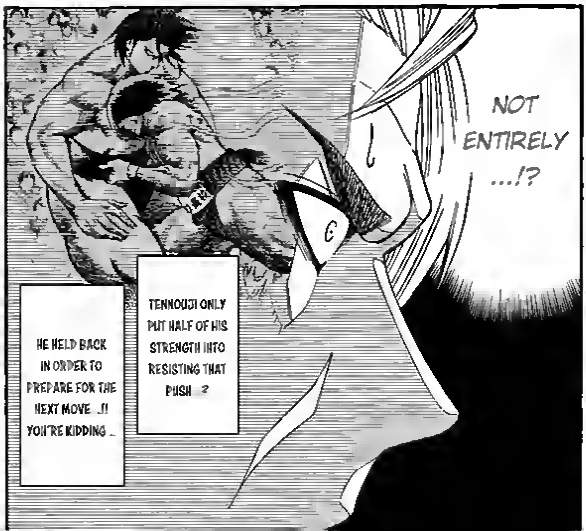



EH...

TO THE SIDE ....?
HE ESCAPED ...


HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN OFF BALANCE ?
CAN HE MOVE...?


WHY...


HE HELD BACK IN ORDER TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT MOVE ..!! YOU'RE KIDDING ..
TENNOUJI ONLY PUT HALF OF HIS STRENGTH INTO RESISTING THAT PUSH ..?
NOT ENTIRELY ...!?

IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS OFF BALANCE..
BUT ...

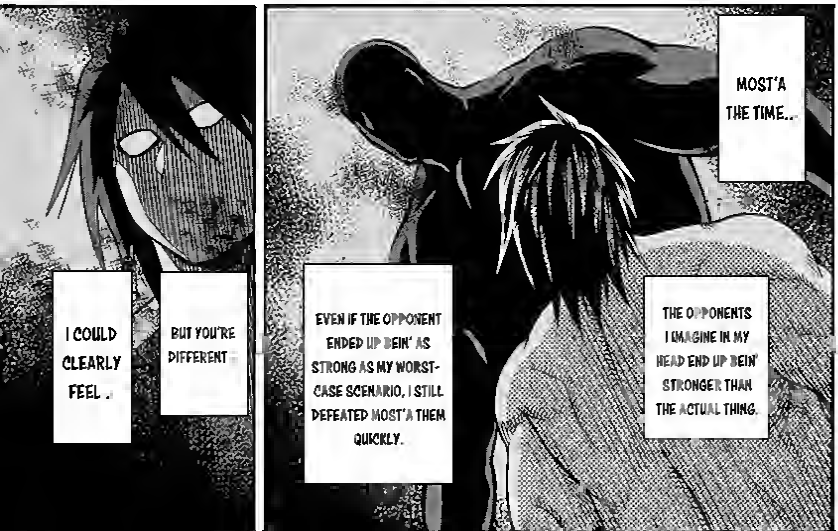
HE ALSO PREDICTS WHAT THE DATA DOESN'T SHOW...
THAT IS, HIS OPPONENT'S POTENTIAL FOR "GROWTH."
ON TOPPA THAT, HE USES IMAGE TRAININ' TO BRAINSTORM COUNTLESS SITUATIONS THAT'D LEAD TO HIS DEFEAT...
ALL SO THAT HE'LL NEVER LOSE...

MY BRO RESEARCHES EVERYTHIN' POSSIBLE ABOUT THE OPPONENTS HE MAY FIGHT

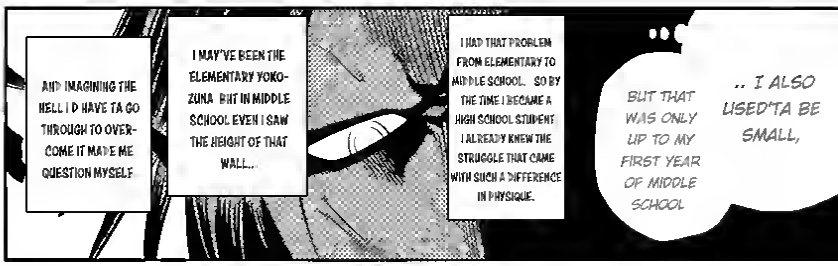
...BUT THAT AIN'T ALL.

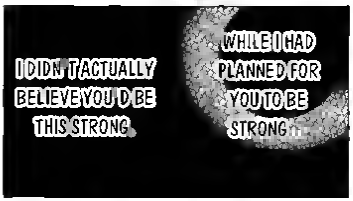
IN HIS IMAGINATION BEFORE THE MATCH ..!!
MY BRO HAD ALREADY CRUSHED THAT PATTERN...
WAS CERTAINLY A PATH USHIO-KUN COULDDA TAKEN TO ATTAIN VICTORY, BUT...
THE ROTATIONS GRAPPLING, AND PUSH LEADING INTO THE TRIPLE COMBO THROW...

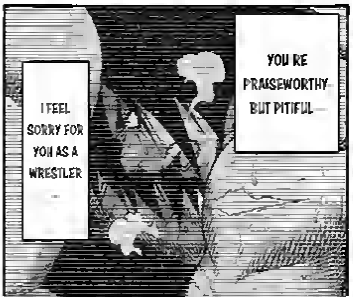
YOU'RE A FRIGHTENIN' MAN.
ONIMARU,


I COULD CLEARLY FEEL ..
BUT YOU'RE DIFFERENT
EVEN IF THE OPPONENT ENDED UP BEIN' AS STRONG AS MY WORST-CASE SCENARIO, I STILL DEFEATED MOST'A THEM QUICKLY.
MOST'A THE TIME...
THE OPPONENTS I IMAGINE IN MY HEAD END UP BEIN' STRONGER THAN THE ACTUAL THING.

REACH MY THROAT.
THE TIP OF YOUR BLADE...

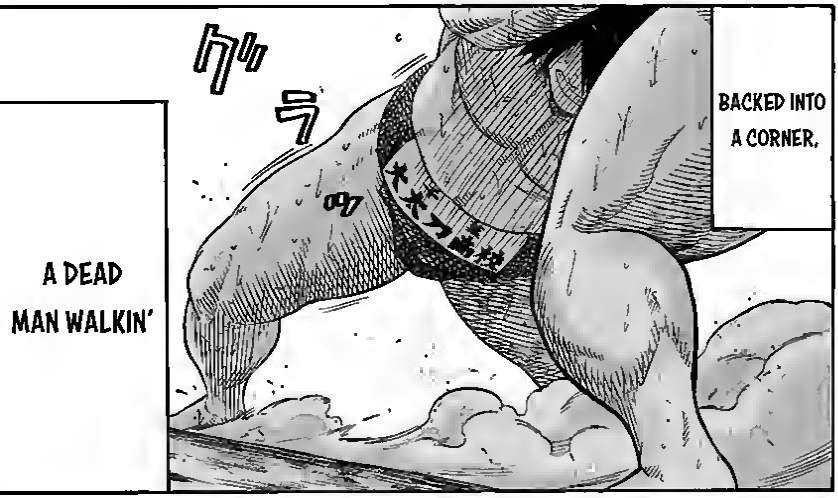

AND IMAGINING THE HELL I'D HAVE TA GO THROUGH TO OVERCOME IT MADE ME QUESTION MYSELF
I MAY'VE BEEN THE ELEMENTARY YOKOZUNA BUT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL EVEN I SAW THE HEIGHT OF THAT WALL...
I HAD THAT PROBLEM FROM ELEMENTARY TO MIDDLE SCHOOL. SO BY THE TIME I BECAME A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT I ALREADY KNEW THE STRUGGLE THAT CAME WITH SUCH A DIFFERENCE IN PHYSIQUE.
BUT THAT WAS ONLY UP TO MY FIRST YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL
.. I ALSO USED'TA BE SMALL,


I DIDN'T ACTUALLY BELIEVE YOU'D BE THIS STRONG
WHILE I HAD PLANNED FOR YOU TO BE STRONG...


I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU AS A WRESTLER...
YOU'RE PRAISEWORTHY BUT PITIFUL...

BUT I WAS SAVED FROM THAT HELL MIDWAY THROUGH...
TO THINK YOU ACTUALLY STRUGGLED THROUGH IT AND MANAGED'TA COME THIS FAR...

EVEN IF YOU MANAGED TO STOP YOUR MOMENTUM ON A WHIM, YOU'RE...
STOP!!
THE AFTER EFFECTS OF THE SELF-SACRIFICE THROW...
NOW YOU HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE FOR YOUR GAMBLE...
YOU PLAYED YOUR TRUMP CARD
I HAVE TA ADMIT YOU RE AMAZIN' .. HOW EVER...


A DEAD MAN WALKIN'
BACKED INTO A CORNER,

SO TENNOUJI. WHY IS YOUR FACE...
YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SUCH A CLOSE FIGHT
NO IT'S BEEN LIKE THAT THE ENTIRE TIME...
IS IT BECAUSE VICTORY IS JUST IN FRONT OF HIM ?

YOUR FACE
IS TOO TENSE.

YOU SHOULD SHOW SOME MORE ENJOYMENT ON YOUR FACE.
IF YOU'RE AIMIN' FOR THAT, THEN...
YOU'RE ALSO AIMIN' TO BECOME YOKOZUNA, RIGHT...?
THE YOKOZUNA'S AT THE PEAK... THE ONE LEADING THE OTHERS...
I'M SURE THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, BUT...
YOU SHOULD HAVE A SERIOUS FACE IN SERIOUS MOMENTS.
WILL THINK SUMO IS JUST FULL'A SUFFERING.
THEN ALL THE BRATS WATCHING US.
FOR THOSE OF US WHO'RE AIMING FOR THAT PEAK, IF OUR FACES ARE WRITHING IN PAIN...
EVERYONE'S WATCHIN...
A LEGENDARY SWORD WHO'S SLASH WAS SAID TO HAVE ONCE BEHEADED DEMONS---
DOUJIKIRI YASUTSUNA...
YOU HAVE TO SMILE
ISN'T IT FUN FOR YOU?
DON'T YOU ENJOY SUMO?
I'M SUFFERING TOO Y'KNOW...?
IF IT IS, THEN NO MATTER HOW MUCH PAIN YOU'RE IN...

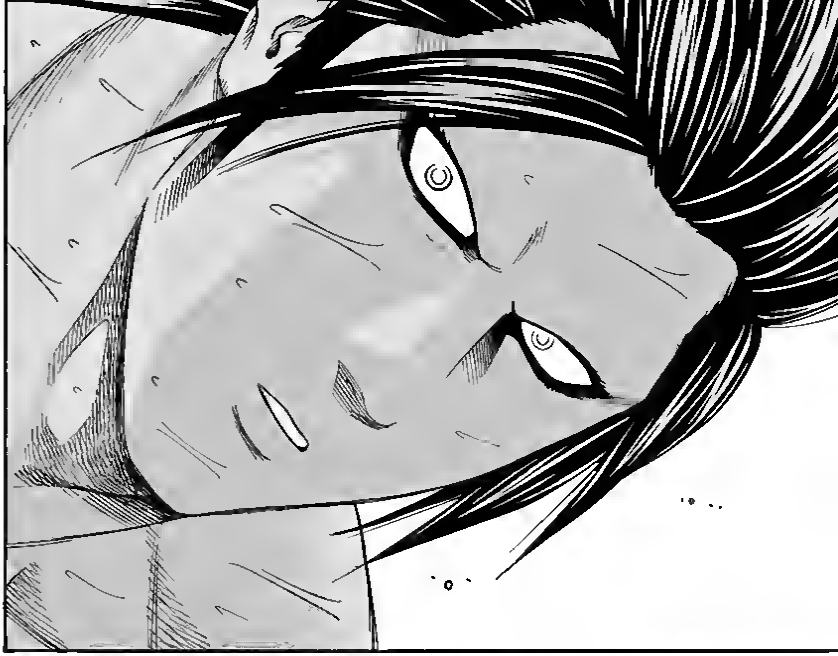
MODIFIED FOREARM THROW
MUTSU DOUGIRI
TLN: SIX WAY BODY SLICE.

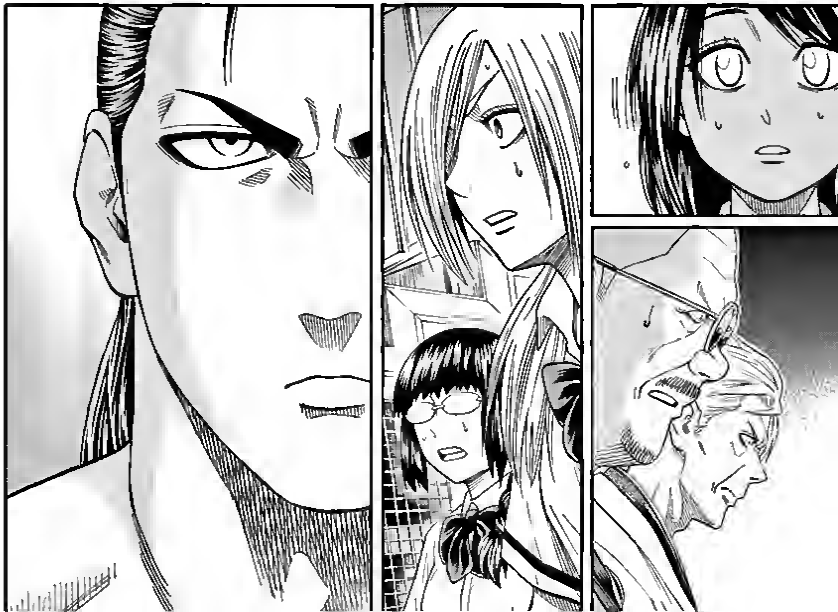
THERE WAS NO LONGER
ANYONE WHO DOUBTED IT.

TENNOUJI
SHIDOU
HAD WON
AND

USHIO
HINOMARU
HAD
LOST

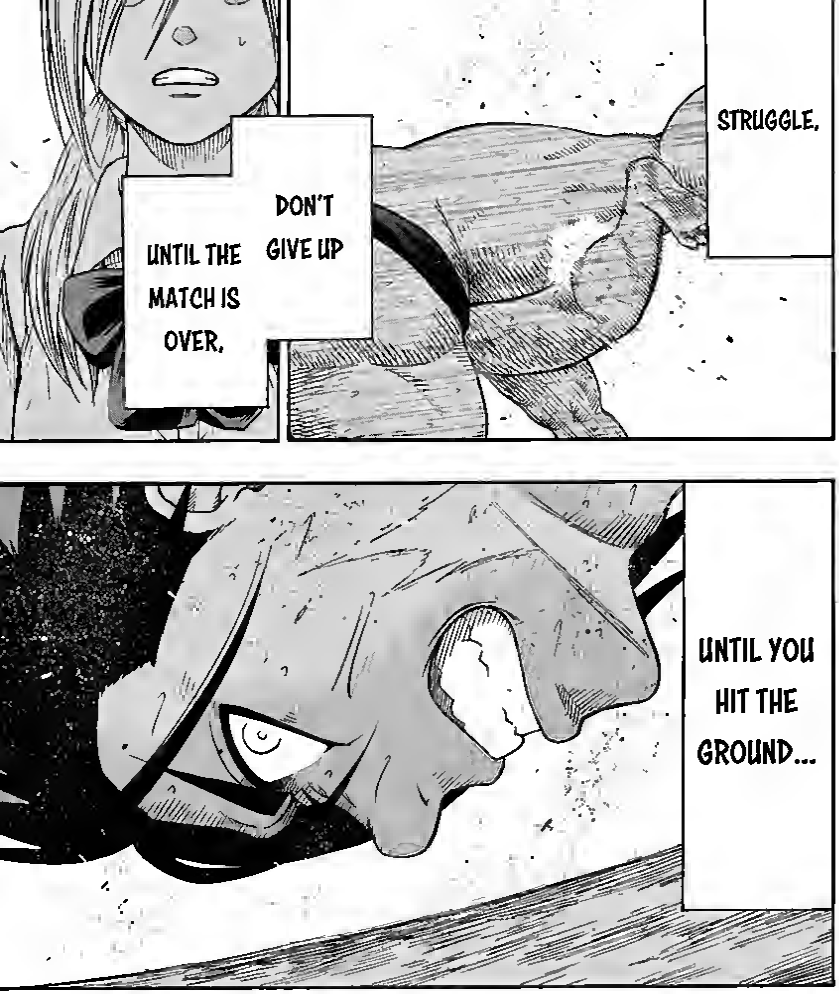
ALL EXCEPT ONE THAT IS...





IT'S THE EPITOME OF DESPERATION...
...WHAT THE HECK'S THAT FACE.
I SEE...
BUT...
ANOTHER WAY TO MAKE THE HEARTS OF THE SPECTATORS POUND...
THAT'S ALSO

I LIKE IT...!!



UNTIL THE FINAL MOMENT...

JUST ONE MOMENT AWAY...

HINOMARU ZUMOU

...ROUND 96 / END

NEXT ISSUE, THE CONCLUSION! WHO WILL WIN!?

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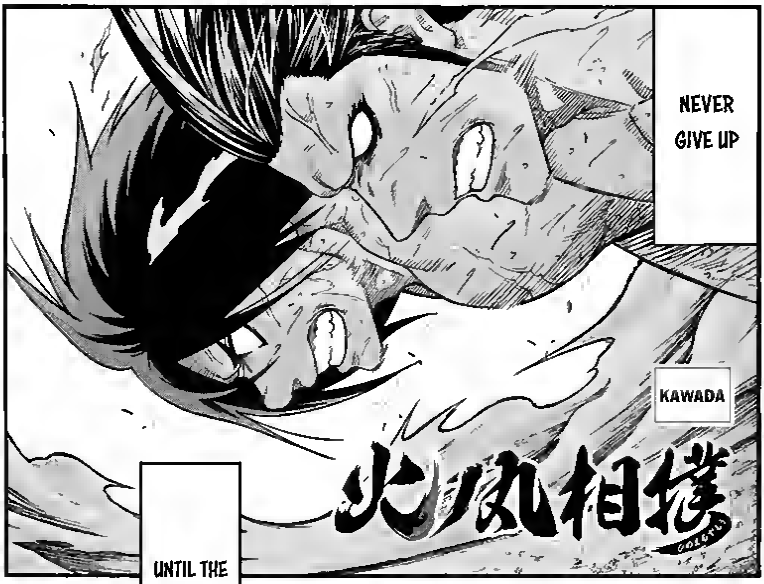
THEY BOTH
THREW EACH OTHER!!
ARE THESE THE FINAL MOMENTS!?
STRUGGLE
NO MATTER HOW UNSIGHTLY IT MAY LOOK,

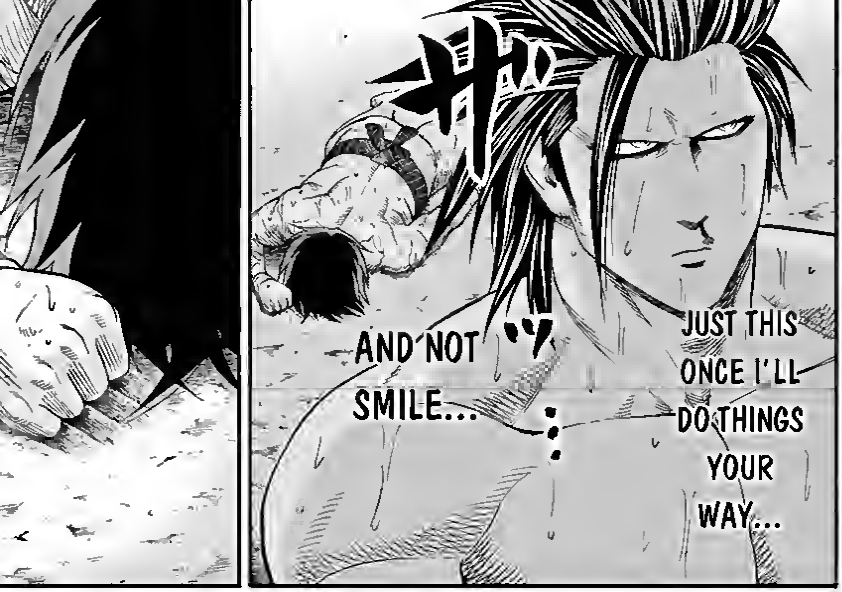

NEVER GIVE UP
KAWADA
鬼丸相撲

UNTIL THE FINAL MOMENT—

UGH
IT'S TENNOUJI'S VICTORY!!

TENNOUJI-KUN FROM THE WESTERN CORNER,
WINS WITH A FOREARM THROW.

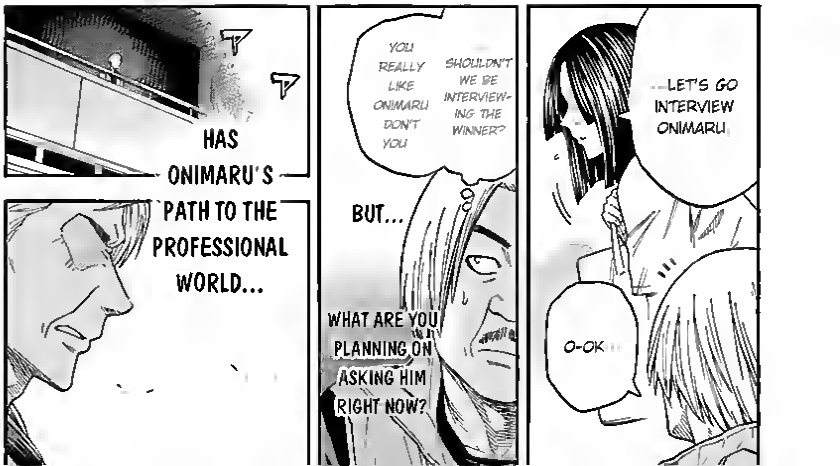
I AIN'T DOIN' THIS TO THANK YOU OR NOTHIN' BUT...
YOU TAUGHT ME THE STRENGTH, YOUR SPIRIT, ONIMARU...!!
.....
THAT HEAD-BUTT HURT MORE THAN I THOUGHT
ポヘ……
?


AND NOT SMILE...
JUST THIS ONCE I'LL DO THINGS YOUR WAY...

BUT... THE LOOK ON TENNOUJI-KUN'S FACE DEFINITELY CHANGED DURING THAT LAST EXCHANGE
YEAH... TENNOUJI-KUN REALLY IS STRONG
THE MATCH WAS DECIDED THE MOMENT HE LAUNCHED THE UNDERARM THROW, HUH...

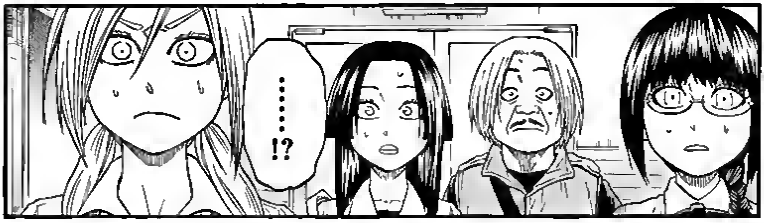
BUT HIS EXPRESSION IN THOSE FINAL MOMENTS...
YOU CAN SAY ALL YOU WANT ABOUT ONIMARU PUTTING UP A USELESS STRUGGLE AT THE END...
ONIMARU!
BUT STILL, IT'S A SHAME TO LOSE SUCH A STRONG WRESTLER IN THE FIRST ROUND
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING HIM WIN LIKE THIS
YOU DID WELL!

HA...
HA...
GAVE ME GOOSE-BUMPS...


HAS ONIMARU'S PATH TO THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD...
YOU REALLY LIKE ONIMARU DON'T YOU
SHOULDN'T WE BE INTERVIEWING THE WINNER?
BUT...
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING ON ASKING HIM RIGHT NOW?
...LET'S GO INTERVIEW ONIMARU
O-OK

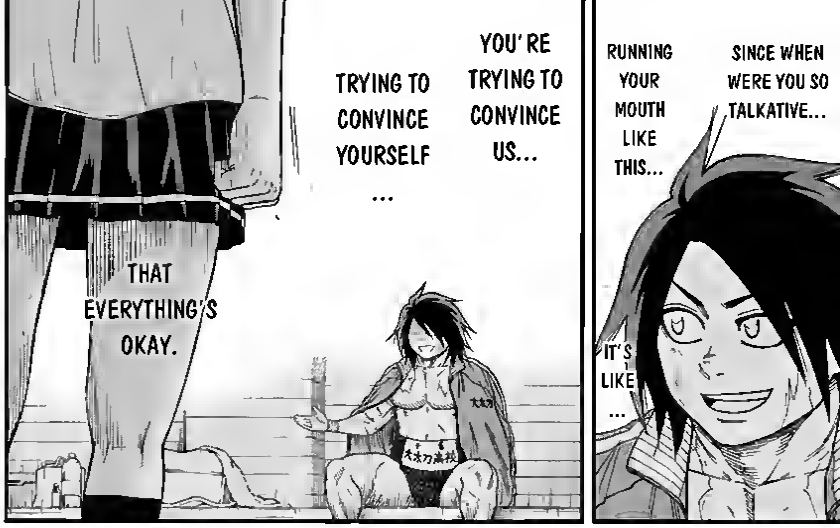
ALREADY BEEN SHUT OFF...?
ALL FOR TODAY, AND YET...
HE WORKED SO HARD...
REINA-SAN...?
?
... I'M SCARED TO FACE HIM...

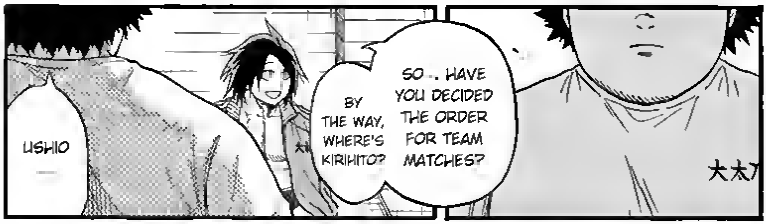
うへへ…
SHIT~ I LOST!
HE'S SO DAMN STRONG!!

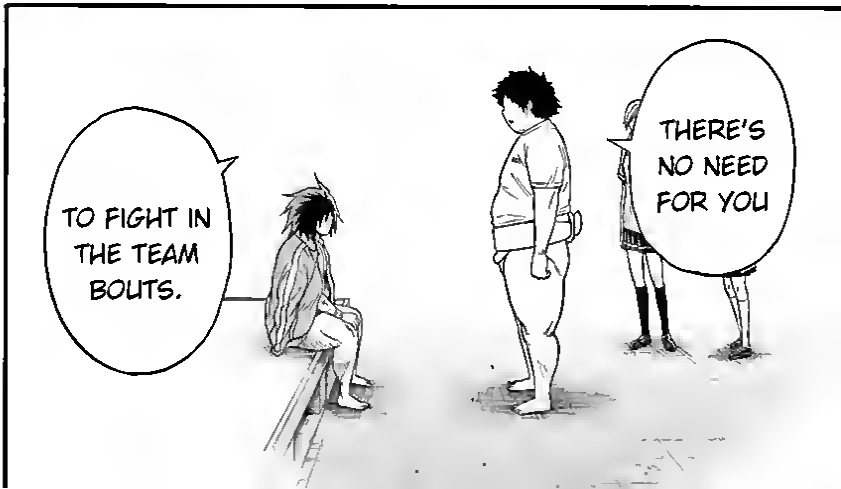

……!?

DON'T WORRY GUYS~, I'M STILL A FIRST YEAR
I'LL HAVE MORE CHANCES NEXT YEAR AND THE YEAR AFTER!
OH WELL, WHAT'S DONE IS DONE
THE TEAM DIVISION MATCHES ARE RIGHT AFTER THIS,
I'VE GOTTA CHANGE GEARS!

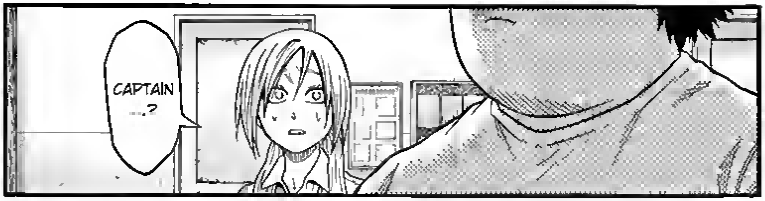
THIS IS ALL AN ACT...
...WHY ARE YOU LIKE THIS? EVEN I CAN SEE IT
HOW SURPRISING IS HE THE TYPE THAT DOESN'T LET ANYTHING GET TO THE HIM?
I EXPECTED HIM TO BE MORE DOWN ABOUT IT...
...HE SEEMS AWFULLY CHEERFUL
IT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU WON THIS YEAR AND BECAME A PRO...
I KNOW, THAT FOR SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO AIMS TO BECOME YOKOZUNA...
IT'S NOT THAT EASY.
...NEXT YEAR?
BUT EVEN NOW...
YOUR PUSHING YOURSELF BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT US TO WORRY...
YOUR WILL TO DEFEAT THOSE PEOPLE IS WHAT KEPT YOU MOTIVATED ALL THESE YEARS...
NEXT YEAR TENNOUJI WON'T BE AROUND... AND SOME OF THE OTHER NATIONAL TREASURES MAY BE GONE TOO
THIS DEFEAT... I'M SURE THAT IT'S PUSHED YOU CLOSER TO YOUR BREAKING POINT...
EVEN YOU MUST HAVE LIMITS...
DOING IT NEXT YEAR OR THE YEAR AFTER HOLDS MUCH LESS SIGNIFICANCE...!!


YOU'RE TRYING TO CONVINCE US...
TRYING TO CONVINCE YOURSELF ...
THAT EVERYTHING'S OKAY.
SINCE WHEN WERE YOU SO TALKATIVE...
RUNNING YOUR MOUTH LIKE THIS...
IT'S LIKE ...


USHIO
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S KIRIHITO?
SO .. HAVE YOU DECIDED THE ORDER FOR TEAM MATCHES?


TO FIGHT IN THE TEAM BOUTS.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU

EH...


CAPTAIN...?

UGH...!!

W-WHY...?
WE ALL DISCUSSED IT AND DECIDED OURSELVES

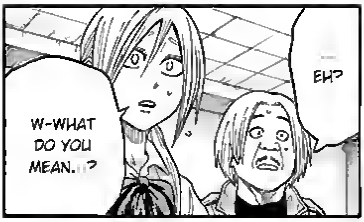
IT HURTS RIGHT?
THIS TIME IT'S YOUR LEFT ARM, HUH...
YOU CAN'T FOOL US AGAIN.
.....!!
I'M FINE.
THIS IS NOTHING
WE'VE JUST CALLED A TAXI.
WHAT...!
DID HE INJURE IT DURING THAT FOREARM THROW...?
I DID THINK IT WAS DANGEROUS...
FOR HIM TO FALL WITH HIS ARM FIXED IN THAT POSITION, BUT...
YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE THAT AND HEAD STRAIGHT TO THE HOSPITAL.
WHY!!
DON'T DECIDE ON THIS WITHOUT GIVING ME A SAY!!
!?

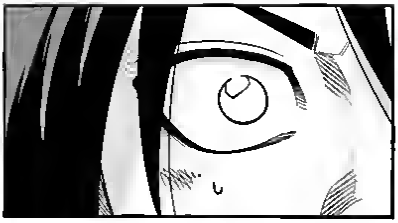
WE PROMISED DIDN'T WE!!
THAT WE'D MAKE DACHI HIGH THE BEST IN JAPAN!!

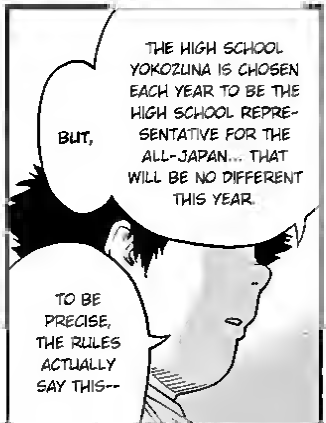
HEY!
THE INDIVIDUAL MATCHES WERE... ME BECOMING A PRO IS MY OWN PROBLEM...
BUT ...
WINNING THE TEAM DIVISION...
IS A DREAM WE ALL SHARE, ISN'T IT...!?
YOU AND YUUMA, THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE
THERE'S NO NEXT YEAR FOR YOU...!
SO PLEASE ...

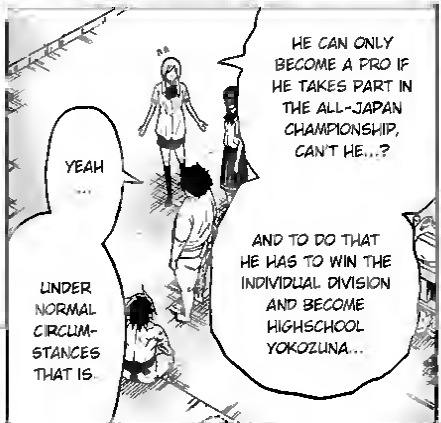
...AT LEAST GIVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY ...
TO FULFIL ONE OF MY DREAMS...!!
ス"...
SORRY
.....
ドス...
IF I PARTICIPATE WITH MY HEAD IN SUCH DISORDER,
I'LL JUST END UP HOLDING YOU ALL BACK!!
DON'T WORRY, JUST REST FOR TODAY.
PREPARE YOURSELF THE UPCOMING MATCHES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
.....
?
IT'S NOT OVER YET, USHIO...

THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT YOUR DREAM TO "BECOME A PRO"
COULD BE REALIZED IN THE TEAM MATCHES.


EH?
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?




BUT,
THE HIGH SCHOOL YOKOZUNA IS CHOSEN EACH YEAR TO BE THE HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ALL-JAPAN... THAT WILL BE NO DIFFERENT THIS YEAR.
TO BE PRECISE, THE RULES ACTUALLY SAY THIS--


HE CAN ONLY BECOME A PRO IF HE TAKES PART IN THE ALL-JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIP, CAN'T HE...?
YEAH ...
AND TO DO THAT HE HAS TO WIN THE INDIVIDUAL DIVISION AND BECOME HIGHSCHOOL YOKOZUNA...
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAT IS.

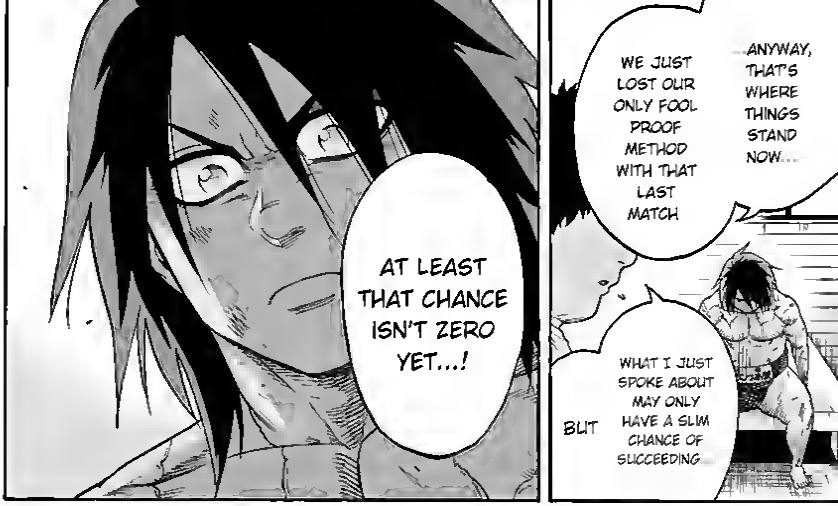
"THE SUMO UNION WILL NOMINATE THOSE WHO HAVE ACHIEVED EXTRAORDINARY RESULTS IN THE HIGH SCHOOL SUMO LEAGUE DURING THE YEAR IN QUESTION. THOSE NOMINATED WILL BE GRANTED THE RIGHT TO ATTEND THE CHAMPIONSHIP."
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS
NOWHERE DOES IT MENTION THEIR NOMINATIONS ARE LIMITED TO JUST ONE PERSON.

H-...
HANG ON A MINUTE...
IT'S ALL WELL AND GOOD THAT THAT'S WHAT THE RULES STATE, BUT...

YOU WERE JUST THWARTED BY THAT OVER-WHELMING STRENGTH YOURSELF...!
IF NO ONE CAN STOP TENNOUJI-KUN'S WINNING STREAK...
THEN IT WILL END UP EXACTLY THE SAME AS IT HAS IN THE PAST FEW YEARS WHERE HE WAS THE ONLY ONE CHOSEN...

IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, TENNOUJI HAS BEEN SO FAR OUT OF EVERY-BODY ELSE'S LEAGUE
THAT HE ENDED UP BEING THE ONLY ONE CHOSEN...
BUT IN THE PAST THERE HAVE BEEN YEARS WHERE 2 OR EVEN 3 PEOPLE WERE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO ENTER.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT'S DONE IN THE TEAM MATCHES OR NOT.
IF SOMEONE APPEARS WHO'S ABLE TO FORCE THE UNDEFEATED TENNOUJI SHIDOU TO THE GROUND FOR THE FIRST TIME,
THE SUMO UNION CAN'T JUST IGNORE THEM, CAN THEY?
PRE-CISELY...
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S SO OVER-WHELMING...
TENNOUJI COULD BE DEFEATED BY SOMEONE ELSE BEFORE WE EVEN FACE HIM.
YEAH BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THAT'S A GUARAN-TEE
IN THAT CASE WE JUST HAVE TO BEAT THE GUY WHO DEFEATED TENNOUJI!
I-...
ぎゅ...
TH-THAT'S ...


AT LEAST THAT CHANCE ISN'T ZERO YET...!
WE JUST LOST OUR ONLY FOOL PROOF METHOD WITH THAT LAST MATCH
...ANYWAY, THAT'S WHERE THINGS STAND NOW...
BUT
WHAT I JUST SPOKE ABOUT MAY ONLY HAVE A SLIM CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING...

IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL WIN OUR WAY THROUGH THE TEAM DIVISION PRELIMINARIES WITHOUT YOU.
SO BE SURE TO COME BACK!
APPARENTLY HE KNOWS A GOOD DOCTOR.
THE STABLE MASTER'S THE ONE WHO CALLED THE TAXI

WE'LL EARN THE RIGHT TO GIVE YOU A SECOND CHANCE AT THE TITLE OF "STRONGEST."
BUT NOW THERE'S SOMETHING WE CAN DO.
WE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOU...
...BACK WHEN YOU LOST AGAINST KUZE DURING THE NEWCOMERS TOURNAMENT...

YOU SAID THAT BECOMING A PRO WAS YOUR OWN PROBLEM, BUT
NOW IT'S PART OF OUR DREAM AS WELL...!
LET'S DO IT, USHIO!
FROM NOW ON, WE'LL WIN AND WIN AND THEN WIN SOME MORE,
AND FORCE THE BIG-SHOTS TO GET ON THEIR KNEES
大太刀
AND BEG YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ALL-JAPAN!!
THEY'RE NO LONGER TEAMMATES WHO JUST FOLLOW HINOMARU ANYMORE. THEY'RE COMRADES TIED BY THE SAME DREAM!!
HINOMARU ZUMOU
ROUND 97 / END